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Faith lies at the heart of the geopolitical frontier

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OLD TRAFFORD TEST

Team India will look to keep series alive

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Top court issues notice to States, Centre on powers of President, Governors

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> The issue affects all the States. The Supreme Court is concerned with the entire country. The court will answer the questions raised by the President.
>
> **B.R. GAVAI**
> Chief Justice of India

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Tuesday said the questions raised by President Droupadi Murmu in her Presidential Reference regarding the powers of the President and Governors in granting assent to State Bills concern the entire country.

The Chief Justice indicated that the matter may be listed for detailed hearing in mid-August, around Independence Day.

The Bench – including Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P.S. Narasimha, and A.S. Chandurkar – issued formal notices to all States and the Union government, seeking their responses to the Presidential Reference. The notices are returnable within a week. The Bench is scheduled to reconvene on July 29.

Tamil Nadu, represented by senior advocate P. Wilson, said the issues raised had already been addressed in the Supreme Court's April 8 judgment in the case concerning the delay by the Tamil Nadu Governor in assenting to the Bills. Senior advocate K.K. Venugopal, appearing for Kerala, questioned the maintainability of the reference issued on May 13.

Chief Justice Gavai responded that the questions raised in the reference were not confined to Tamil Nadu or Kerala. "The issue affects all the States. The Supreme Court is concerned with the entire country. The court will answer the questions raised by the President," he said.

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Dhankhar's exit notified, but key questions remain

No official word on what prompted his resignation; sources link it to his acceptance of a notice from Opposition seeking removal of Justice Varma, which government intended to be bipartisan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday issued the Gazette notification of Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation as Vice-President, ostensibly on health grounds, less than 24 hours after he submitted it to President Droupadi Murmu, formally marking his abrupt exit from the post.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi acknowledged the resignation in a brief post on X, without any elaboration. "Shri Jagdeep Dhankharji has got many opportunities to serve our country in various capacities, including as the Vice President of India. Wishing him good health," he said.

Though there is no official word on what prompted the resignation, sources say it may have been linked to Mr. Dhankhar's decision to accept a notice submitted by 63 Opposition MPs in the Rajya Sabha seeking Justice Yashwant Varma's removal. Sources say the Centre was taken by surprise as it had intended the motion for removal to be a bipartisan initiative originating in the Lok Sabha.

Sources said the matter led to a heated exchange of words between officials in the Rajya Sabha Chairperson's office and government functionaries.

Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh calls on President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

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Numbers stacked in NDA's favour in election for V-P

NEW DELHI
The Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies, with numbers in their favour in both the Houses, have at least 150 members more than the Opposition in the electoral college for the vice-presidential polls. The Opposition though has not taken a formal call, but is still likely to force a contest as it had done in the last two polls for the post. » PAGE 9

NEARBY

Study reveals widespread decline in birds

BENGALURU
A recent study, 'State of India's Birds 2023', has revealed a significant decline in many of India's bird species, underscoring the urgent need for targeted and sustained conservation efforts. » PAGE 3

New Devadasi law mooted

BENGALURU
The State government, in a new legislation, intends to do away with the need for the father's name in application forms and government identity cards of children of Devadasis.

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OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

SC asks eateries along Kanwar route to display details as stipulated by law

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said Kanwariyas must be free to choose where they wanted to eat while mandating that restaurants on the Kanwar Yatra route must comply with a statutory mandate to display their licences and registration certificates.

Quoting Karl Marx's "religion is the opium of the people", and remarking how food habits "alienate", a Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and N. Kotiswar Singh said it was ultimately the pilgrims' choice to pick suitable places of nourishment.

The court was hearing a plea challenging a requirement for food vendors along the Kanwar Yatra route to display QR code stickers along with the owners' names prominently on banners outside their establishments. The petitioners include Apoorvanand Jha, the Association for Protection of Civil Rights, and Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra. The States *en route* the yatra include Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, for one of the States, said the regulations were based on a Central law.

Long haul: Kanwariyas carrying water from the Ganga in Haridwar taking out a procession in New Delhi on Tuesday. R. V. MOORTHY

Question of business

During the hearing, Justice Sundresh questioned whether there were restaurants which had been serving non-vegetarian food before the yatra but switched to pure vegetarian during the pilgrimage months for "better business". He said there were people who did not touch garlic or take onion. They may prefer not to go to a hotel where non-vegetarian food had been served previously.

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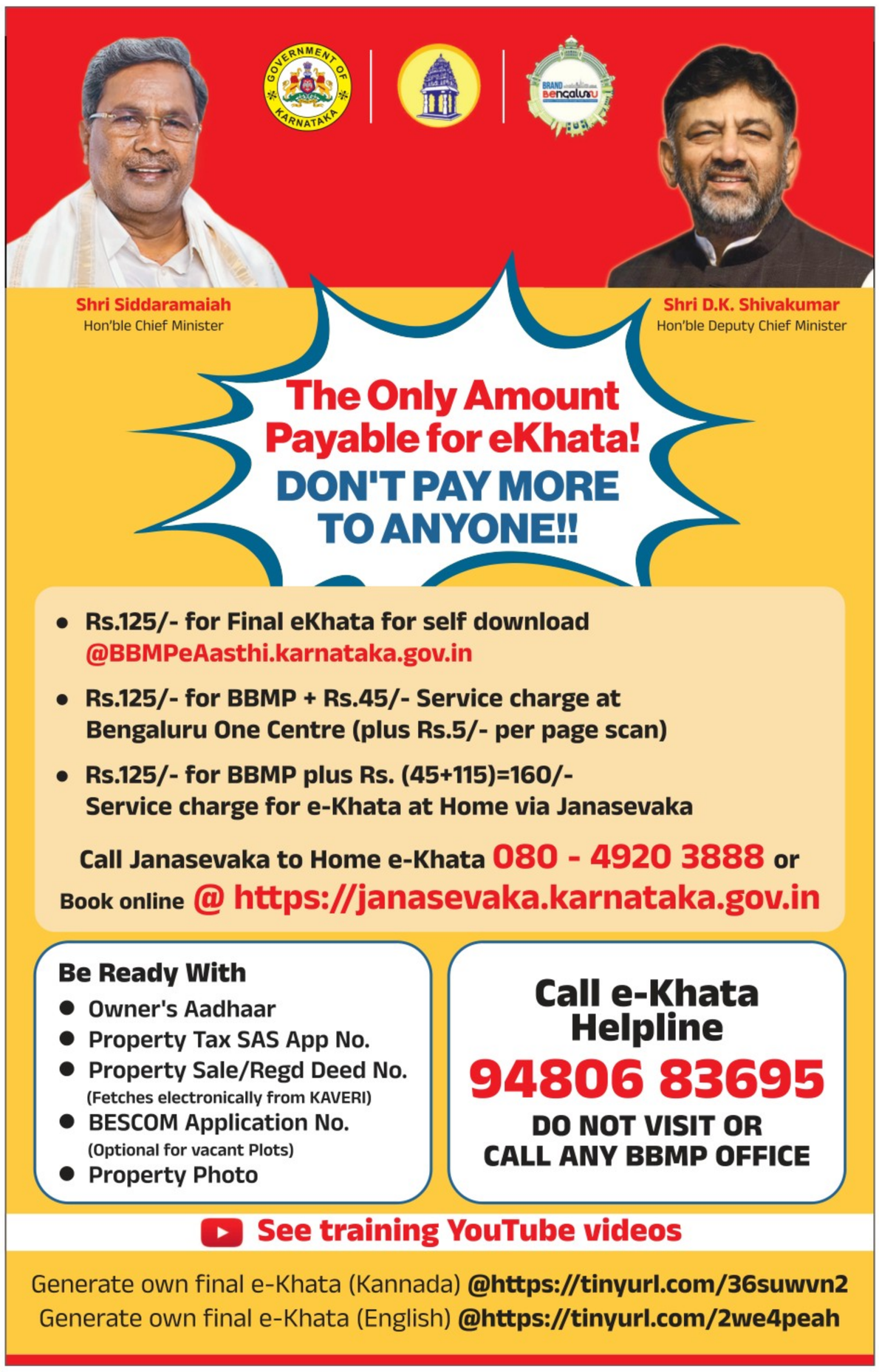

KDA to frame *Bhasha Neeti* to foster all languages of State

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Kannada Development Authority (KDA) is in the process of formulating a *Bhasha Neeti*, a language policy, for the State.

A committee constituted by the authority is now framing the draft of the policy, which will focus not only on Kannada but also all the major and minor languages spoken in the State, announced KDA chairperson Purushottama Bilimale.

Speaking to the press in Udupi on Tuesday, he said the KDA, within a year, would come up with its recommendations on what the government, district administrations, and the Education Department should do to save not just Kannada, but multiple languages, including minor ones, spoken in the State.

"A committee constituted by the KDA has already collected data on 230 languages spoken in Karnataka," Mr. Bilimale said.

He said the National Education Policy (NEP) - 2020 recognised the importance of regional and local languages, as well as the mother tongue, in the overall development of a child. He said that although the NEP came into force in Karnataka, the objectives related to languages have failed to take shape in the State.

SC may hear appeal by Maharashtra in train blasts case tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday indicated its intention to list on Thursday the Maharashtra government's appeal challenging the Bombay High Court judgment acquitting all 12 convicts in the 2006 Mumbai train blasts case, which killed 187 people and left more than 800 injured.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the State, made an oral mention of the matter before Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, requesting that the matter be listed at the earliest. Chief Justice Gavai responded by asking whether Thursday would be acceptable, to which Mr. Mehta agreed.

The Bombay High Court had, in its ruling, observed that the prosecution had "utterly failed" to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt. It had set aside the 2015 judgment of the Special Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act court, which had sentenced five of the accused to death and the remaining seven to life imprisonment. "Creating a false appearance of having solved a case by presenting that the accused have been brought to justice gives a misleading sense of resolution," the High Court judgment observed on Monday.

Siraj — the perfect embodiment of the ultimate team man

Often lurking under Bumrah's shadow, he has shouldered the pace attack from the front in the former's absence; he is a captain's delight who completes India's bowling attack overseas

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

Jasprit Bumrah is acknowledged as the best bowler of his generation, with complete and total justification, but it will be no exaggeration to say that without Mohammed Siraj, India's bowling will collapse outside the subcontinent.

The numbers might not quite back that assertion, but in any case, the numbers only tell half the story. They are plain and cold and unemotional and impossible to argue with, but they don't take into account passion and energy, effort and commitment. They can't quantify heart. And that's something the Hyderabadi has in ample measure. If the size of the heart alone was sole criterion in the wickets column, Siraj would already have a thousand. At the minimum.

As it stands, Siraj's Test stats might appear to border on the modest - 113 wickets in 39 matches. When viewed against Bumrah - 217 wickets in 47 Tests, 104 wickets more in just eight additional games - they do seem unflattering, but it's worth remembering that we are comparing Siraj's tally with someone who is already being hailed as the greatest pacer of all time, even though he has only featured in 89 ODIs and 70 T20Is to go with his 47 Tests.

Rare commodity

What you get with Siraj, you don't get with too many fast bowlers of his time worldwide. Maybe New Zealand's Neil Wagner and England's extraordinary captain Ben Stokes. But how many others can be relied upon to bowl eight or nine overs in a single spell, whether in searing heat or on the most unresponsive of surfaces or oftentimes both combined?

Eight or nine overs without a drop in intensity, without allowing batters to breathe easy, without conceding a quarter but always looking for an inch through all means legal and allowed?

By his own admission, Siraj is an emotional individual. He wears his heart on his sleeve, he loves getting into a verbal battle, he likes to chatter and chirp and talk and scrap, but there is no malice. Because he isn't as expressive in a language that he has tried to get better at, it is easy to paint him as the villain, like all of Australia did for his send-off to Travis Head in Adelaide in December. But Siraj doesn't care.

He truly doesn't. His job, apart from taking wickets, is to try to unsettle set batters, to appeal to their ego and get them to attempt something different. Sometimes, it comes with a slap on the wrist, like the 15% loss of his match fee at Lord's when he touched shoulders with Ben Duckett after dismissing the England opener in the second innings. But it's a price he is willing to pay, literally, if it gives him just the slightest edge in his quest for wickets for his team, his country.

His thinking is simple, uncomplicated, without venom. He doesn't just run in and bowl without purpose or a plan. Behind that often benign, smiling exterior is a tough-as-nails attitude and a thinking brain for which he doesn't get due credit. Just as Ravindra Jadeja's innate cricketing intelligence has been often eclipsed by R. Ashwin's more visible presence, Siraj has had to walk in Bumrah's massive shadow. Like the Saurashtra all-rounder, Siraj too has done that uncomplainingly, ungrudgingly.

His competition is not with Bumrah - he knows that that is a futile exercise - but Siraj's primary battles are with himself. How to become better each day. What to keep adding to his bag of tricks. How to work batters over. How to bring a game seemingly drifting away from his side to life, how to energise his colleagues who might be losing focus and allowing shoulders to drop on a hot day with a big partnership is developing.

Rishabh Pant is the witty engine room behind the sticks with his charming one-liners and his nuanced commentary of the game which is so engaging that the actual commentators sometimes put their mics down and allow him to entertain the viewers. Siraj isn't as eloquent and he is always too far away for the stump microphone to catch his words. But he is the one leading the cheering brigade, clapping incessantly, urging his teammates to follow suit and now taking it upon himself, in Virat Kohli's absence, to get the crowd going. He may not always succeed, but it is impossible not to be touched by his sincerity, his earnestness, his commitment to the cause and the sense of oneness and team that compels him, for instance, to take Bumrah's arm holding the ball and hold it high over the head when the champion pacer is too tired to acknowledge the cheers for a five-wicket haul, as happened at Lord's.

Siraj's boundless energy isn't restricted to just match-play. Even as practice, he thunders in - scratch that, he glides in beautifully, like a superbly primed athlete - and tests one batter after another ball after probing ball. When he is greeted with a screaming stroke, he smiles sheepishly.

Classic example

When he beats the bat or knocks the stumps over, that changes to a broad grin and, occasionally, a grateful look heavenwards. He is the classic example of replicating a game scenario in the nets, a wonderful virtue to possess because being switched on then doesn't become drudgery or a conscious exercise.

'Sir' slides off his tongue regularly when he begins to answer every question in a press conference, where his earthy humour and easy nature surface every so often. He speaks with feeling about the motivation that comes with wearing an India shirt, he insists there is no secret to his undimming energy because 'When I play for the country, I want to give my 100 per cent. I don't want to feel that I missed something that I should have done. I don't want to have any regrets. Whatever the result is, my only plan is to give my 100%. When I go to sleep, I want to feel that I gave it my all'.

Every captain's dream, Siraj has been supremely unlucky in his four and a half years in Test cricket. Chances haven't often gone to hand and when they have, as many have been shelled as have been taken. After a baleful look at the offender and an exasperated throwing up of his hands, he shrugs mentally and gets back to business again. How? How can you not let go, Siraj? How do you keep your calm despite being at the receiving end so many times?

"If I don't get the results in this game, I will get them in the next, that's what I tell myself," he rationalises. "Every bowler wants to get wickets while bowling. But if you are unlucky today, you will get lucky somewhere else. God has ensured that you have reached here, you will reach further, so don't be so irritated. As a bowler, I do get irritated. I beat (Joe) Root so many times in the last match but I couldn't get him out, so I did feel irritated. But I tell myself that it is very simple — God has given so much, he will give more." Great attitude, you say? Undoubtedly, we return.

Bumrah is the bowler opponents fear the most, but they will also assert that with Siraj, they have to be on their guard all the time. An extremely skilful bowler who was identified and nurtured by Bharat Arun during the 2016-17 domestic season when he was the coach of the Hyderabad state team, Siraj has now added the lethal scrambled seam delivery to his repertoire, which has made him even more dangerous. And while he does take, on average, less than three wickets a Test, 16 of those matches have come in India and Bangladesh, where he has bowled more than 20 overs in an innings just once (against England in Rajkot in February 2024).

His average of 30.88 compares favourably with several Indian fast bowlers - of those with at least 100 Test wickets, only Kapil Dev, Javagal Srinath ad Mohammed Shami, apart from Bumrah - boast a better average and only Bumrah and Shami have taken wickets quicker than the 52.74 deliveries he needs per scalp. These are extraordinary numbers when one considers that among those who have taken 100-plus sticks are also Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav and Irfan Pathan. This Siraj, he certainly doesn't merely make up the numbers.

Siraj enjoys a terrific rapport with Bumrah, though interestingly enough, his best performances have come when Bumrah hasn't played for one reason or the other. Alongside Bumrah in 24 Tests, Siraj has 73 wickets, average 33.56, strike-rate 55.7, with a solitary five-for. When Bumrah hasn't played in the other 15 Tests, his corresponding numbers are 40, 26, 47.3 and 3 respectively.

"When responsibility is placed on my shoulders, I feel very proud," Siraj remarks, simply and without affectation. "When you get the responsibility to lead your country's attack, it feels very good when you perform. When Jassi *bhai* was not there in 2023, I was the No. 1 bowler (in the world in ODIs). It feels very good for the team and for me."

Check out that sequence - Siraj's propensity to rise to the occasion when he is thrust into the leadership role. Clearly, he relishes that; it's not that he can't be the foot soldier to Bumrah's general, but when he is temporarily elevated to the position of the head of the bowling group, he seems to find that little bit extra, that special something that allows him to rise above his normal passionate self and become an even more pronounced threat.

To be able to do all that even during and towards the end of a long spell speaks not just to his physical fitness but also to his immense mental reserves. Siraj is the perfect embodiment of the ultimate team man. He leaves nothing behind in the changing room, and while he understandably covets individual glory, he will give that up in a trice if it means that his team, his country, is on to a good thing.

THE GIST

- What you get with Siraj, you don't get with too many fast bowlers of his time worldwide, except maybe New Zealand's Wagner and England's Stokes
- Bumrah is the bowler opponents fear the most, but they will also assert that with Siraj, they have to be on their guard all the time
- Siraj has the propensity to rise to the occasion when he is thrust into the leadership role

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TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(OP)/Cir-South/EE(O)/AEE-4/JE-1/25-26/EPR-07 Dated: 25.06.2025 for **"Design, Manufacture, Supply, Testing, Erection and Commissioning of 110V, 15A Float, 30A Boost Battery Charger, required at various sub-stations in Subramanyapura Division under Tr.(Op) Circle-South, KPTCL, Bengaluru conforming to Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading"**

The Bids will be received through KPPP mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL' or to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 23.07.2025**. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-Superintending Engineer(Ele.), Tr(Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009, Ph: 22386686-85.

कार्यालय जिला परिषद, जयपुर

सवाई जयसिंह साईं, जिला कलेक्ट्रेट, बनीपार्क, जयपुर. E-Mail ID :- jaipuraceo@gmail.com, Phone No. :- 0141-2200724

क्रमांक :- एफ.( )जिपज/लेखा/निविदा/प.स.भवन झोटवाड़ा/2025/545 दिनांक :- 21/07/2025

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 2/2025-26

जिला परिषद जयपुर के अधीनस्थ पंचायत समिति भवन निर्माण एवं स्टाफ क्वार्टर्स निर्माण कार्य झोटवाड़ा के निर्माण कार्य हेतु इच्छुक संवेदकों से जीएसटी पंजीकृत एवं "बी" श्रेणी या उच्चतर श्रेणी में पंचायती राज विभाग/राजकीय विभाग एवं राजकीय उपक्रम में पंजीकृत फर्मों/संवेदकों से निर्माण कार्य हेतु ई–प्रॉक्यूरमेंट पोर्टल **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। जिसकी विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर भी उपलब्ध है।

NIB :- ZJP2526A0719, UBN :- ZJP2526WSRC01275

राज.संवाद/सी/25/6633 **अति. मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी**

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL

ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE, AGRAM – POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in

TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the Chairman, Principal invited sealed tender for Renovation of science lab (civil, electrical & plumbing work) at APS ASC C & C of Tender Enquiry/Form (also uploaded on website for reference) to be collected from school office after payment of ₹1,000/-(DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College) from 23 Jul 2025 to 04 Aug 2025 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 05 Aug 2025 at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer / Member 1

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department)

KARNATAKA RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

III Floor, Grameenabhivruddhi Bhavana,
Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone No.: 080-29710021/ 22 / 23 / 24 Fax: 080-29710025
E-mail: coo.krrda.karbng@nic.in Website: http://www.krrda.in

No:KRRDA/TECH/02/DPR/TND/2025-26/988 Date: 22-07-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Rural Road Development Agency (KRRDA) invites Tenders through KPP Portal for the Empanelment of Consultants to Provide Consulting Services for detailed Surveying and Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR- as per ADB requirement) for the proposed Roads and Long Span Bridges in the ADB assisted Karnataka Rural Road Improvement Project (Pragathi Patha being implemented by KRRDA). For more details visit Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Tendering Officer & Executive Engineer, KRRDA, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/1973/Adverto/2025-26

City Municipal Council, Hiriyuru – 577598

E-Mail:ka.hiriyur.cmc@gmail.com
ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 08193–296220

No:CMC/HYR/TS/AMRUTH/MF/TEND.CR:10/2025-26
Date:19/07/2025

Tender Notification

(Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Full termTender Notification)

Tenders are invited from qualified Civil/Electrical Contractors/ Agencies registered with Public Works Department under HiriyurNagarsabha under Amruth-2.0 and Municipal Fund Grants under the Karnataka Transparency Act 2000 on behalf of the Governor of the State of Karnataka. Apply online through Karnataka Public Procurement website http://kppp.karantaka.gov.in.

Details of Works:- (1) DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT45308
Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakhs):- 69.46 EMD (In Rs.):- 117720.00
(2) DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT40164/CALL-2
Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakhs):- 49.95 EMD (In Rs.):- 84655.00
Last Date to submit Tender (Evening 5 o'Clock):- 04/08/2025
Opening of Tenders (Evening 5:15):- 05/08/2025
For further details the Engineers in the Municipal Technical Department may be contacted

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/228/2025-26 **Sd/- Municipal Commissioner City Municipal Council, Hiriyuru.**

KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
"Samparka Soudha", No.8, Dr. Rajkumar Road,
Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Tele Fax: 080-22024000
E-mail : mdkrdcl@gmail.com & cekrdcl@gmail.com

No. KRDCL/IFB/2025-26/07 Date : 14-07-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION - (Through KPP Portal)

(1) Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) invites offer from the reputed company / agencies having experience for **Providing commercial Passenger Vehicles (CARS), Diesel / Petrol of Swift Dzire / Toyota ETIOS / Toyota Innova or equivalent capacity in all respect as desired by KRDCL on hire basis for a period of One (01) year** on item rate tender basis in two cover system. **Approximate Estimated Cost :** Rs. 225.00 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit :** Rs. 2,25,000/-
(2) Interested bidders can contact the Chief Finance Officer, KRDCL, Bengaluru to obtain clarifications before submitting the tender during the office hours. **(3)** Interested applicants may download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and submit the bids and EMD (electronically) through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only. **(4)** The calendar of events for various activities are : **(a)** The Last date and time for submission of queries is **04-08-2025 up to 17:30 Hrs.** The applicants may submit their queries through electronic mail : **cekrdcl@gmail.com, mfakrdcl@gmail.com. (b)** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **06-08-2025 at 15:30 Hrs** in the KRDCL Board Room, Bengaluru at the above address. **(c)** The Last date and time for submission of Bids is **14-08-2025 up to 17:30 Hrs. (d)** Date and time of opening of Technical Bids is **16-08-2025 at 17:30 hrs.**
*Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, KRDCL, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1967/Sreshta/2025-26

Government of Karnataka

PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA MANDYA - 571402

ಪ್ರಧಾನಮಂತ್ರಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ -೫೭೧೪೦೨
ಪೀಎಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ,ಮಂಡ್ಯ-೫೭೧೪೦೨
ई-मेल/E-mail: kvmandya@gmail.com वेबसाइट/Website: https://mandya.kvs.ac.in
☎ : 08232-275663
के.वि.कोड/KV CODE: 2300 स्टेशन कोड/Station Code: 788 क्षेत्र कोड/ Region Code: 02 जोन/Zone : दक्षिण/South
सीबीएसई संबद्धता संख्या/CBSE Affiliation Number: 800046 यू-डीआईएसई कोड /U-DISE Code: 29220801904

Walk-in-interview as per schedule for the post of Atal (ATL) Lab Trainer

Venue : PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, B. Hosur Colony, Keragodu Hobli, Mandya - 571 402
Salary Rs : 25,000/- per month

Post	Educational Qualification	Date of Interview
Trainer for Atal Tinkering Lab (01 Post)	B.E./ B.Tech./ M.Tech (Electronics & Communication Engineering / Electronics & Electrical Engineering) Essential : Minimum 1 Year Exp.	28/07/2025 Reporting Time : 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Candidates must bring the filled application form along with the original certificates and their photocopies. For more details, please visit the Vidyalaya website **https://mandya.kvs.ac.in.**

Principal
PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya Mandya

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of India Undertaking)

E- Auction Notification

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd Announces E- Auction of Commercial Contracts, published on IREPS e-tendering system as per the following schedule.

Sr. No.	Name of Contract	No. of Contracts / Lots	Date and Time of E-auction
1	Leasing of SLR - Train No. 20112, 10104, 22907	03	25.07.2025 at 11:00 hrs
2	Advertisement at Railway stations through Advertisement Boards, Hoardings at stations at Madgaon and Kumta	03	25.07.2025 at 11:00 hrs
3	Pay Parking at Asnoti, Ankola	02	26.07.2025 at 11:00 hrs
4	Display of Advertisements inside train - Madgaon - Mangalore Central - Madgaon (10107/ 10108) Memu train and Diva - Sawantwadi Road passenger (10105/ 10106)	02	26.07.2025 at 11:00 hrs
5	Display of Advertisements exterior train- Diva - Sawantwadi Road passenger (10105/ 10106), Diva - Ratnagiri passenger (50104 / 50103), Konkan kanya Exp (20112 - 20111), Mandovi Exp (10104 - 10103)	03	28.07.2025 at 11:00 hrs
6	Parcel Scanner at Madgaon	01	28.07.2025 at 11:00 hrs
7	Commercial Publicity through Video Screens on Station Premises at KARMALI, KARWAR	02	29.07.2025 at 11:00 hrs
8	Advertisements through Hoardings near Road Under Bridge / Road Over Bridge - Maharshtra, Goa, Karnataka	22	30.07.2025 at 11:00 hrs

For queries please contact: **1.** Shri. Pravin Daware, **Mob. No.**: 9004470597. **2.** Shri. Vinay Gaonkar, **Mob. No.**: 9004476129. **3.** Shri. Madhukumar Shetty, **Mob. No.**: 9004476082. For more details, please visit the website at **www.ireps.gov.in**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, (Lakes-Yelahanka),
3rd Floor, Annex Building-3, N.R Square, Bengaluru - 02.

No:EE(Lakes-Ylk)/Tend-03/2025-26 Date:22.07.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
Tenders on Item Rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or Equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Inlet construction at Agrahara lake. Thirumenahalli Lake and outlet construction at Chokkanahalli lake (2nd Call) Approx. value of work : ₹ 125.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 1,87,500/-
2.	Providing Chain Link Fencing at Allalasandra Lake. Approx. value of work : ₹ 50.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 1,00.000/-
3.	Providing Chain Link Fencing at Amruthahalli Lake. Approx. value of work : ₹ 40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 80.000/-
4.	Providing Chain Link Fencing at Rachenahalli Lake. Approx. value of work : ₹ 50.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 1,00.000/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Available of Tender Documents **23.07.2025** after **4:00** pm. (2) Pre-Bid meeting on **30.07.2025** at **4:00** pm (3) Last date & time for Receipt of Tenders is **06.08.2025** upto **4:00** pm (4) Opening of Technical Bid **07.08.2025** at **4:30** pm (5) Opening of Financial Bid: After approval of Technical Bid (will be informed later)

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Lakes-Yelahanka)

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
YELLAPUR DIVISION, YELLAPUR

No:A4:DTS:August-2025:Sale-1:CR-5:2025-26 Date: 18.07.2025

DETAILED NOTIFICATION FOR e-TENDER CUM AUCTION OF TIMBER IN MUNDGOD AND KIRWATTI DEPOT OF YELLAPUR DIVISION, YELLAPUR

KARNATAKA FOREST CODE, 1976
APPENDIX XVIII A (Rule 64)

ಅಪರ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಅಪ್ರಮುಅಸಂ(ಅಸಂ.ನಿ)ಬಿ3:ಸೇಲ್ಸ್:ನಆರ್–01:2025–26 ಮತ್ತು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ FEE 168 FDP 2017 ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 14–11–2017 ಮತ್ತು 27–02–2018, ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ FEE 25 FDP 2020 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.08.2022

It is hereby notified for the general information of the public that, timber and other forest produce stocked and lotted in the Mundgod and Kirwatti Government Timber Depots of Yellapur Division, Yellapur will be sold through the public e-tender cum auction method in MSTC portal for one or more sessions from **11.08.2025 to 14.08.2025 (All four sessions) at Govt timber Depot Kirwatti depot, from 18.08.2025 to 22.08.2025 (All four sessions) and 25.08.2025 (Two sessions) at Govt timber Depot Mundgod** from 10.00 A.M till the bidding for all lots is completed. The Sale Conducting Officer will be The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Yellapur Division, Yellapur.

FOR ANY CLARIFICATIONS, YOU CAN CONTACT:
The Assistant Conservator of Forest, Govt Timber Depot, Kirwatti:
acfgtdkwt@gmail.com Phone No.08419-238534
The Assistant Conservator of Forest, Govt Timber Depot, Mundgod:
acfgtdmundgod@gmail.com Phone No. 08301-222152
The Deputy Conservator of Forests,Yellapur division,Yellapur:
yellapurdcf5@yahoo.com, dcfyellapur@gmail.com
Phone no.08419-261273
Sri Damodar Manager MSTC Limited,Bengaluru
Mobile No. 98410022252 / 9535347426 / 9980147110

Sd/- Harsha Bhanu G.P. IFS
Deputy Conservator of Forests, Yellapur Division, Yellapur

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/306/25-26 Dt.22.07.2025

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Government of Karnataka
Youth Empowerment and Sports
Zilla Panchayat Vijayapur.
Assistant Director, Youth Empowerment & Sports,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium, Vijayapur- 586101
Telephone: 08352-251085

No: A.D/YESO/VJP/TENDER/2025-26 Date:21.07.2025

Short Term Tender

For the year 2025-26, e-tenders are invited through e-procurement portal from eligible suppliers in accordance with Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for supply of out source staff in District Stadium/ Taluka Stadium/Sports Hostel of Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports. For more information www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in please contact office phone number: 08352-251085 or 7019008443.
Last Date Submission on Application : **04-08-2025**
Tender Opening Date : **05-08-2025**
Date of opening of financial bid: **After inform eligible technical bid**
Total Tender Amount Rs. **51,70,000/-**
E.M.D. Amount Rs. **1,03,000/-**

Sl.No	Number of out source staff	Tender Process Fee	Staff Details
01	15	As per Portal	1) Warden -1 2) computer Operator-1 3) Security Guard -12 4) Cleaner -1 Total - 15

Sd/- Assistant Director
Youth Empowerment & Sports , Vijayapur

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/203/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com

No: EEPWDGDG PB- 1:Diferent Head : 2025-26/1657
Dated : 22-07-2025

Corrigendum and Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division, Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of 05 work of total amount of Rs - **271.45** Lakh (Min estimate amount : Rs- **5.00** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **165.00** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW-1, 2 and 4 through http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

The Calendar of Events works notified under this office tender notification No:- 1600 Dated : 18-07-2025 (W.I. 22056/Call-2) Work published in both Part-1 and Part-2 calendar of events. But read as per Part:-1calendar of events for W.I. 22056/Call-2.

Work Indent No:- Part-1) : 19847/Call-2, 21562
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **05-08-2025** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **08-08-2025** Noon 4.00 PM
(c) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid Date : **11-08-2025**
Work Indent No:- Part-2) : 22718 Category-2a, 22807
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **22-08-2025** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **25-08-2025** Noon 4.00 PM
(c) Opening of Technical / Financial Bid Date : **26-08-2025**

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/188/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Division, Gadag.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, our clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its Owner **SRI.SUPRIT S KUMAR S/o Sri.B.S.Sathya Kumar**, residing at No.63, Mountain Street, 1st Block, East, Jayanagar, Near Madhavan Park, Bengaluru-560011. The Owner represents that, the previous owner Smt.B.S.Mahalakshmi W/o late Sri.B.R.Sreeram had misplaced/lost the original title deeds and documents of the Schedule Property i.e., (i) Absolute Sale Deed dated 26/05/1979 executed by Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) in favour of Sri.S.R.Subba Rao S/o Sri.S.S.Ramakrishnaiah, registered as document No.582/1979-80, in Book-1, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore; (ii) Absolute Sale Deed dated 16/06/1986 executed by Sri.S.R.Subba Rao S/o Sri.S.S.Ramakrishnaiah in favour of Smt.Seethalakshmi W/o Sri.B.M.Ramakrishna, registered as document No.566/1986-97, in Book-1, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore City and (iii) WILL dated 12/03/2001 executed by Smt.Seethalakshmi W/o Sri.B.M.Ramakrishna in favour of her daughter Smt.Madhura Gururaj, registered as document No.344/2000-01, in Book-3, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore City; and to that effect she had lodged a police complaint on 09/05/2023 vide a Lost Report No.0558210/2023, with the Bengaluru City Police. Further, the Owner represents that he has a freehold subsisting marketable title to the Schedule Property.

Apart from the said Owner, if any person has any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property or any person/s having custody of the said original deeds and documents, they are hereby called upon to file their objections along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within **14 (Fourteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Municipal No.10 (Site No.37, Khatha No.424/37-10)**, PID No.60-112-10, E.P.I.D.No.3247510884, measuring East to West 38.9 ft and North to South 55.6 ft, in all measuring 2150 Sq.ft, with a building thereon, situated at **28th 'A' Cross Road, 4th Block, Jayanagar, LIG, KHB Colony**, Bengaluru, within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.169-Byrasandra and bounded as follows:

East by : Property bearing No.38
West by : Property bearing No.36
North by : Road
South by : Property No.40

Sd/- BAYYA REDDY. M
For ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 2nd Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex, 22nd Main Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070.

Work in progress

For green signal: The launch of Yellow Line metro service moved a step closer, with the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety inspecting the corridor on Tuesday. Following CMRS approvals, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. is expected to start the final operational preparations. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Solar dreams on lakes: Experts warn of disturbance to ecosystem

Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Department and Renewable Energy Department Ltd. plan to install solar panels on 40 lakes in Kolar, Chickballapur, and Bengaluru; project aims to generate up to 2,000 MW of energy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government's ambitious project to harness renewable energy by setting up floating solar panels on lakes has gathered pace, even as experts and limnologists flag its possible negative impact on the aquatic ecosystem.

The Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Department and Renewable Energy Department Limited have planned to install solar panels on 40 lakes in Kolar, Chickballapur, and Bengaluru. The project aims to generate up to 2,000 MW of energy.

"This innovative project is not just about energy; it also helps reduce lake maintenance costs, boosts fisheries, and protects against encroachments," said the Energy Department.

New way: The Karnataka government is planning to harness renewable energy by setting up floating solar panels on lakes. FILE PHOTO

Several drawbacks

However, experts have pointed out several drawbacks and suggested alternative approaches for consideration.

Shivakumar Magada, professor of aquatic biology at the College of Fisheries, Mangaluru, said the project could accelerate the degradation of lakes already affected by silt, urbanisation, and industrialisation.

"The lake's natural vegetation will be impacted by the introduction of a foreign body, disturbing the aquatic ecosystem. Weeds may also begin to grow owing to the accumulation of nutrients around the scaffolding for the panels," Prof. Magada explained.

A limnologist and former pollution control board member, speaking on the condition of anonymity, argued that the panels could obstruct sunlight from entering the water, thereby limiting the growth of phytoplankton and zooplankton, both of which are essential food sources for fish.

Priyanka Jamwal, Programme Leader and Senior Fellow at the Water and Society Programme, noted that India's lakes are vastly different from those in other countries. Therefore, the approach to installing solar infrastructure should be tailored to Indian conditions.

Ms. Jamwal acknowledged a potential upside to the project and proposed a technique that could enhance lake health. She suggested that while installing the panels, project implementers should identify nitrogen and phosphorus hotspots within the lake and target those areas for panel placement.

"In nitrogen and phosphorus hotspots, lakes experience algal blooms when exposed to sunlight. If solar panels block sunlight in these areas, it could effectively prevent algal blooms," Ms. Jamwal explained.

However, she stressed that this is merely a hypothesis and that a pilot study is necessary to determine whether the approach will succeed or fail.

R. Anjaneya Reddy, president of the Shashwata Neeravari Horata Samiti, stated that the project should only proceed if there is assurance that the lake's natural state will remain undisturbed. "Many birds and animals depend on these lakes as water sources. The government must ensure that none of them are adversely affected by the project," Mr. Reddy said.

He also cautioned that catchment areas must remain unblocked and that local fishermen who rely on these waterbodies for their livelihood should be consulted and included in the decision-making process.

Ms. Jamwal echoed this sentiment, emphasising that the government must secure the support of the fishing community before moving forward with the project.

Mr. Magada proposed an alternative, suggesting that the government consider barren lands where farmers are willing to lease or sell fields for solar panel installations. He also recommended using Category E lakes, such as Nagawara and the western part of Hebbal lake, for the project, rather than selecting lakes classified under categories A, B, C, or D.

Categories of lakes

Lakes are categorised from A to E, with Category E referring to waterbodies deemed unfit for drinking and bathing.

The Energy Department claimed that it had conducted a feasibility study and is prepared to install solar panels on 40 lakes. However, repeated calls to officials seeking the results of the study went unanswered.

Three college students booked for abetment to suicide

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the death of a 22-year-old engineering student, the Madanayakanahalli police booked three of his classmates charging them with abetment to suicide on Monday.

Channakeshava L., father of the deceased, alleged in his complaint that his son, Arun C., studying at a private university, ended his life on July 11 after uploading a video of his act on the class WhatsApp group. The video had gone viral.

Harassed for a year

The incident came to light when the complainant checked the mobile phone and the chats to find that Arun had allegedly been harassed by three of his classmates for the last one year.

They were allegedly humiliating and insulting him constantly which led him to take the extreme step, he said.

Unnatural death

Earlier, the police had registered a case of unnatural death, but after Channakeshava realised the reason and cross-checked with Arun's classmates, he approached the police and filed a complaint along with the details.

Based on the complaint, the police registered a case against Chiranth, Vikas Gowda, and Ameen for further investigation.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

Another private school gets bomb threat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Another private school, this time in Varthur, received a bomb threat on Tuesday, prompting the management to send the students home.

The threat was sent via email to Chrysalis High Varthur.

The management dispersed the students and alerted the parents to pick up their children from school before alerting the police.

The police, along with the bomb disposal and canine squad, conducted a through check before declaring it as a hoax.

As many as 40 schools and other institutions in and around the city received such hoax calls and emails recently.

Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh requested people not to panic and said that the matter has been taken very seriously and the cybercrime police and ISD officials are probing to track down the accused involved in such acts.

Gang of 15 involved in cash conversion racket arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Investigating a case of a robbery involving ₹2 crore, the Vidyaranyapura police on Tuesday arrested a gang of 15, including the complainant in the robbery case, for allegedly robbing businessmen on the pretext of getting cash converted into digital currency.

Based on the complaint by Sriharsha Venkatesh Murthy, 33, a city-based businessman in June, the police analysed the CCTV camera footage and call record details before zeroing in on the gang.

An investigation revealed that Sriharsha offered to convert ₹2 crore in cash belonging to two businessmen, identified as Bharath Singh from Bengaluru and Abhishek from Mangaluru, into USDT cryptocurrency.

Sriharsha, along with the two businessmen,

went to the shop of one of the accused and were counting the cash, when an armed gang barged in, assaulted them, and fled with the cash.

The gang also locked Sriharsha along with Bharath Singh, Abhishek, and their three friends in the shop to make it look genuine. As per the plan, Sriharsha later filed a complaint with the police. However, the police found something amiss and began to verify the facts in detail before arresting Sriharsha along with 14 others.

The other accused have been identified as Rakshith M., Chandrashekhar, Benjamin Harsha, Syed Akhib, Mohammed Suhail, Salman Khan, Muheeb S., Mohsin Khan, Salman Khan, Syed Amjab, Syed Afreed, Syed Wasim, Sheikh Wasim, and Mohammed Ateeq. The police have recovered ₹1.1 crore in cash along with cars, bikes, mobile phones, and weapons used by the accused. Four more accused, identified as Sandeep, Sheikh Sadu, Rakesh, and Mohammed Sabeer, are on the run and efforts are on to track them down.

Praising the police team for cracking the case, Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said that the accused are habitual offenders. The investigation is on to ascertain their criminal records, he added.

The police are also alerting the IT Department to probe the source of the cash.

St. Joseph's School launches NCC Wing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

St. Joseph's School inaugurated its NCC unit under the 40 KAR Battalion on Monday.

Air Commodore S.B. Arun Kumar, Deputy Director-General of NCC Karnataka and Goa Directorate, who attended the event as chief guest was welcomed with a guard of honour. He acknowledged the school's step to include NCC training, noting its role in developing leadership and discipline among students. "NCC is not just an activity, it's a way of life," he said in his address, and encouraged cadets to serve society.

The event featured cultural performances, and the Deputy Director-General (DDG) of NCC handed over the 40 KAR Battalion NCC banner to the school principal, Fr. Melwyn Anil Lobo.

Two killed, 4 injured as lorry rams shops

Police inspecting the damaged shops in Koratagere taluk of Tumakuru district on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two people were killed and four others injured when a lorry ploughed into a bakery and stationery store at Kolala village in Koratagere taluk of Tumakuru district on Tuesday.

The deceased have been identified as Rangashamaiah, 65, and Bailappa, 65. The injured, Jayanna, Kantharaju, Mohan Kumar, and Siddagangamma, were being treated at the Tumakuru district hospital.

The victims are from the neighbouring village who visited the bakery and the stationery store when the lorry driver lost control and ploughed into the shops. Both the shops were damaged. The lorry driver escaped soon after the accident.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-37/616/2025-26 Date: 22.07.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible (Electrical) Contractors registered in KCEI & KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below :

Name of the Work : (1) Providing Highmast to Major circles at Baikampadi Industrial Area, Dakshina Kannada District. **(Reserve for CAT-I). (2)** Reconditioning, Operation and annual maintenance of streetlights at Malur 1st & 2nd phase Industrial Area, Kolar District. **(Reserve for SC). (3)** Reconditioning, Operation and annual maintenance of streetlights at Malur 3rd & 4th phase Industrial Area, Kolar District. **(Reserve for Others). (4)** Reconditioning, maintenance Operation and annual of streetlights at Devakathikoppa, Sanda, Mandlikallur Industrial Area, Shivamogga District. **(Reserve for Others). (5)** Reconditioning, Operation and annual maintenance of streetlights at Davangere, Karur, Harlapura, Lokikere, Hanagawadi Industrial Area, Davangere District. **(Reserve for Others)** .

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **11.08.2025** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/1980/NR/2025-26 Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-2/BSWML/Tend/14/2025-26 Date: 22.07.2025

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFT) Short Term Bid Notification (Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

1. The Grants have been Provided under SBM 2.0 Grants (State & Central sharing) ULB sharing for the following work.
2. In this regard, the Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit bids for works given in the table through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
3. Bid documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka.
4. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Approx. Amount put to Bid (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)
1	Turnkey Lumpsum, Fixed Price No Variation Tender Based on Tenderers Own Design for the work of Design, Construction, Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of 4 nos. of Transfer Station having closed compaction system for handling 260-265 TPD of MSW at selected locations of Hebbal, Pulikeshi Nagar, C.V.Raman Nagar and Shanthi Nagar. (Package-1)	**4442.75** Excluding GST	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.43,42,750/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank
2	Turnkey Lumpsum, Fixed Price No Variation Tender Based on Tenderers Own Design for the work of Design, Construction, Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of 4 nos. of Transfer Station having closed compaction system for handling 260-265 TPD of MSW at selected locations of Yelahanka Division, Dasarahalli, Mahadevapura and K.R.Pura Division (Package-2)	**4442.75** Excluding GST	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.43,42,750/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank
3	Turnkey Lumpsum, Fixed Price No Variation Tender Based on Tenderers Own Design for the work of Design, Construction, Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of 4 nos. of Transfer Station having closed compaction system for handling 260-265 TPD of MSW at selected locations of Bommanahalli, Bengaluru South, R.R.Nagar and Yashwanthpura Division (Package-3)	**4442.75** Excluding GST	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.43,42,750/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank
4	Turnkey Lumpsum, Fixed Price No Variation Tender Based on Tenderers Own Design for the work of Design, Construction, Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of 4 nos. of Transfer Station having closed compaction system for handling 260-265 TPD of MSW at selected locations of Jayanagar, Padmanabha Nagar, Chickpete, Basavanagudi (Package-4)	**4442.75** Excluding GST	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.43,42,750/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank
5	Turnkey Lumpsum, Fixed Price No Variation Tender Based on Tenderers Own Design for the work of Design, Construction, Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of 4 nos. of Transfer Station having closed compaction system for handling 260-265 TPD of MSW at selected locations of Malleshwaram, Mahalaxmi Layout, Rajaji Nagar, Gandhinagar (Package-5)	**4442.75** Excluding GST	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.43,42,750/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank
6	Turnkey Lumpsum, Fixed Price No Variation Tender Based on Tenderers Own Design for the work of Design, Construction, Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of 3 nos. of Transfer Station having closed compaction system for handling 260-265 TPD of MSW at selected locations in Bengaluru Urban Area (Package-6)	**3332.06** Excluding GST	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.32,32,060/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank

Cost of Bid Document : **As per KPP portal,** Stipulated completion period (including monsoon period) : **9 Months**

1. Pre bid meeting will be held on **06.08.2025 at 15:00 hours** in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road,Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
2. Technical Documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document on or **before 16:00 hours of 21.08.2025**. The Technical bids will be opened through kpp-portal only on **22.08.2025 after 16:30 hours** at the stipulated venue. through kpp-portal in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend the opening process. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidders. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the bids, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com**. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The bidders are required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to last date and time for receipt of the bids. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/1983/Zen/2025-26 Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML

A beetle-fungi combo threatens plantations in rubber capital Kerala

The destructive power of the beetle-fungi association and the risk of other pathogenic fungi teaming up with the beetles are a cause for alarm. According to experts, this calls for an action plan to mitigate and prevent further attacks. Policymakers and researchers should step up, collaborate, and provide solutions to manage infections

Rohini Karandikar

Rubber plantations in Kerala have been under threat since a beetle-fungus alliance has been attacking trees, causing severe leaf fall and rapid drying. Researchers at the Kerala Forest Research Institute in Thrissur recently identified the parasite to be the ambrosia beetle (*Euplatypus parallelus*).

In their new study, published in *Current Science*, the beetle has been reported to share a mutualistic relationship with two fungal species, *Fusarium ambrosia* and *Fusarium solani*.

This is the first report of *F. solani* in association with the adult ambrosia beetles.

Rubber farmers have called for the use of genetically modified rubber plants. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Fungi in the galleries

Earlier, farmers working in the rubber plantations in the Irrity-Kannur region of Kerala noticed latex oozing from the bark of rubber trees. Under the Tree Health Helpline project, they alerted researchers from the Institute, insect ecologist Jithu Unni Krishnan said.

Ambrosia beetles get their name from the ambrosia fungi that call the beetle their home. The name 'ambrosia' is not taxonomic but ecological. These beetles are native to Central and South America. They were first reported in India in the cashew trees of Ponda, Goa, in 2012.

These beetles attack dead or infected trees, although they're also known to attack stressed trees. At times, the stressed trees release ethanol, a volatile compound that the ambrosia beetles can sense and attack. The beetles don't feed on the woody bark of trees; the fungi do. The beetles bore tunnels called galleries in the bark, carry fungi into the galleries, and farm the fungi to concentrate nutrients. The beetles and their larvae feed on nutrient-rich fungal mycelia. The fungi also release enzymes that weaken the wood, allowing beetles to penetrate deeper.

In other insect hosts, the fungi are present in sacs called mycangia. In the present study, however, the team didn't find mycangia in the ambrosia beetle. Krishnan said that it's of interest to study how the fungal species interact with each other while coexisting in a beetle without the mycangia.

Long time to heal

The beetle-fungus association harms trees in many ways. Aside from weakening the structure, the duo causes severe leaf fall, trunk drying, and in some cases even tree death. The infection also affects total latex production from rubber trees, causing economic and agricultural losses. To combat the infection, experts follow specific methods, such as using antifungal agents, removing the infected part of trees, burning or chipping away any part that displays holes, and preventive measures such as using traps for ambrosia beetles.

Further, once a tree is infected, it takes a long time to heal. "The systemic infections progress through the plant xylem, blocking the xylem vessels. Moreover, proliferation of the fungus inside the xylem leads to sporulation, which leads [it] to secrete several enzymes, weakening the wood strength and showing death in distinct parts of the tree," Amey Redkar, a reader at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, and an independent expert working on *Fusarium oxysporum*, also a plant pathogen, said.

Controlling a fungal infection in plants is difficult. The fungi reside in deeper parts of an infected plant, where insecticides or fungicides often don't reach. "Once [fungi] have progressed systemically, it's too late to save a plant from it. Many *Fusarium* sp. spread either through soil or can also be carried by insect vectors," Redkar added. "As these pathogens have adapted to outcompete neighboring microbes to reach their vascular niche, they have evolved to modulate the surrounding microbiome."

Future team-ups

A few species of ambrosia beetles, including *Euplatypus parallelus*, are invasive and threaten horticulture and silviculture worldwide. Being flying insects, they can access a variety of trees.

While phytosanitary measures appear to have worked in coniferous trees, the same may not work on rubber and teak. The infection also makes other economically significant plants, such as coffee, cashew, and coconut, vulnerable. To prepare, experts recommend strategies based on the geographic location of the plantations

"It can infest, to my understanding, more than 80 species of broadleaf trees, including cashew, teak, coconut, and coffee," Krishnan said.

While the beetle has coevolved with its fungal partners, it may in the future associate with other pathogenic fungi, posing a bigger threat to plantations. Likewise, *Fusaria* sp. are very virulent and known to expand their host range. "The concern is how many indigenous virulent pathogenic fungi are likely to associate with this insect and thereby broaden the host range and impact of this insect," Krishnan said.

Fusarium fungi infect beetles as well as other organisms, including spiders, frogs, and humans. These fungi are opportunistic pathogens in humans, meaning they can affect those with a compromised immunity, posing a significant health risk to workers in rubber plantations, as well as other plants and animals within an ecosystem.

Much to lose

The destructive power of the beetle-fungi association and the risk of other pathogenic fungi teaming up with the beetles together portend alarm. According to experts, the possibility calls for an action plan to mitigate and prevent further attacks. Since the number of invasive ambrosia species is increasing as well, Krishnan said policymakers and researchers should step up, collaborate, and provide solutions to manage infections.

India is the world's sixth-largest producer of rubber and the second-highest in terms of productivity. Kerala produces 90% and accounts for 72% of India's rubber cultivation area.

While there are reports of successful phytosanitary measures in coniferous trees, the same measures may not work on broad-leaf trees such as rubber and teak. The infection also makes other economically significant plants, such as coffee, cashew, mango, and coconut, vulnerable to infections. To prepare, experts recommend management strategies be designed based on the geographic location of the plantations.

"Things that are applicable to other parts of the world may not be applicable to Kerala or South India," Krishnan said.

Redkar added that sustainable treatments, such as using antagonistic fungi that can compete with the pathogenic ones or using microbial consortia with a diversity of bacterial species that can live inside plants, can offer promising results in mitigating fungal infections in plants.

(Rohini Karandikar is a science communicator, educator, and facilitator. She currently works at TNQ Foundation as a consultant. rohinikarandikar84@gmail.com)

THE GIST

The beetles usually attack dead or infected trees. The fungi feed on the bark and the beetles bore tunnels carrying fungi into the tree and farm the fungi for nutrients. The fungi also release enzymes that weaken the wood, allowing beetles to penetrate deeper

The beetle-fungi association causes leaf fall, trunk drying, and tree death. The infection also affects latex production. Antifungal agents are a popular way of combating the problem apart from removing infected parts, burning or chipping, and traps for beetles

Controlling a fungal infection in plants is difficult. The fungi reside in the deeper parts where insecticides don't reach. Once an infection has progressed systemically, it's too late to save a plant from it. Many *Fusarium* sp. spread either through soil or are carried by insect vectors

BIG SHOT

The Yarlung Tsangpo river near Namcha Barwa in this 2017 photo. On July 19, China started work on the Medog Hydropower Station, which will use a 2-km drop within a 50-km stretch to generate power. The station design requires engineers to excavate four 20-km tunnels through Namcha Barwa mountain to divert the river. JIANG JIANHUA (CC BY-SA)

QUESTION CORNER

The universe has no top or bottom

Shamim Haque Mondal

Q. Where is the centre of the universe?
A: The universe has no top, bottom or middle and no centre either. Scientists know today that the universe is spreading out in all directions and in all places at the same time. This means galaxies that are 500 lightyears away, 5,000 lightyears away, and 5 million lightyears away are all moving away from the earth. The earth itself is moving away from another object somewhere else.

On a more fundamental level, we often consider the Big Bang to be a central event in space, but this is not true. Our universe is not located inside some larger space (at least to the extent that we can study and prove). Right after the Big Bang, space grew, changed, and evolved everywhere at once.

The human mind is accustomed to a three-dimensional surrounding where specific parts of space begin and end.

The Hubble Ultra Deep Field is an image of a small region of space in the constellation Fornax, composited from Hubble Space Telescope data collected from September 3, 2003, to January 16, 2004. NASA, ESA

It is more used to shapes with points and straight lines. Thus, for example, we can say a spherical soap bubble has a centre. But the universe bends space and time and has a shape that is not easily comprehensible by the mind. It has no edges or vertices and thus no centre either.

As the German physicist Werner Heisenberg once said, "Physics does not offer comfort; it offers reality."

(Shamim Haque Mondal is a researcher in the Physics Division, State Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata. (shamimmondal709@gmail.com))

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JUL. 23	
RISE 06:03	SET 18:49
RISE 04:16	SET 17:44
THURSDAY, JUL. 24	
RISE 06:03	SET 18:49
RISE 05:20	SET 18:39
FRIDAY, JUL. 25	
RISE 06:04	SET 18:49
RISE 06:21	SET 19:29

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	28	19
Bengaluru	27	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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'RTI Act applicable to Century Club as it is a public authority'

High Court of Karnataka says that it is beneficiary of land given by the Maharaja of Mysore in 1913

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ruled that 7.5 acres of land given by the Maharaja of Mysore in 1913 to Century Club, situated on the land abutting Cubbon Park in Bengaluru, amounts to "a substantial contribution of financing by the State" to bring the club under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

"... if the valuation of the land of 7.5 acres as of today is taken into consideration, the same would run into hundreds of crores if not thousands, and the contribution made by the members of the club, as membership fees or any other head of account, pales into insignificance. In that view of the matter, it is clearly and categorically established that there is a substantial contribution made by the State, i.e. the erstwhile Kingdom of Mysore, through the Maharaja of Mysore", the court said.

A file photo of Century Club in Bengaluru.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by the club, which had questioned the 2018 order passed by the State Information Commission (SIC).

Land given by govt.
The SIC had said that the club has to be treated as a "public authority" under the RTI Act as it has benefited from the land given by the State government in 1913 while directing the club to provide information under the RTI Act to the public.

The court said that the club had not made any payment to the then Maharaja of Mysore or the Kingdom of Mysore for the land and no specific document has been placed on record to indicate that the said land belonged personally to the Maharaja of Mysore.

Not personal property
"The grant made in the name of the Maharaja of Mysore would also indicate that it is not the personal property of the Maharaja," the court noted.

On the club's contention that day-to-day activities, expenses, maintenance etc., are carried out from the contribution of the members, the court said that the fact still remains that without the land, the activities of the club could not be run.

Nagasandra toll plaza: HC issues notice to NHAI

A file photo of vehicles at the Nagasandra toll plaza.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday ordered issue of notice to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on a PIL petition complaining that collection toll at the Nagasandra toll plaza is illegal as the period for collection of toll expired in 2021.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Joshi passed the order on the petition filed by A.V. Amaranathan, a city-based advocate.

Details of toll
Alleging that crores of rupees has been collected as toll since 2021, the petitioner has sought a direction from the court to the NHAI to submit the details of the toll collected since 2021.

The petitioner has also claimed that the plaza is situated inside Bengaluru city and hence the collection of toll is illegal, besides contending that for travelling about 5 km, from Guruguntepalya till Nagasandra where the plaza is located, commuters will have to pay ₹40.

RTI pleas
It has also been complained in the petition that the NHAI has not provided him the response to the applications filed under the RTI seeking various details on toll collection and contract period.

CCB raids foreign post office, recovers drugs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Anti-Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch recently raided the foreign post office situated in Chamarajpet and recovered synthetic drugs, including 10 grams of cocaine, 10 grams of MDMA, 30 grams of ecstasy pills, and 70 grams of hydro ganja, worth ₹6 lakh.

The drugs were being imported from different countries to peddlers living in different parts of the city who have been tracked down.

Foreigners arrested
As many as nine foreign nationals, including four from Nigeria, one each from Sudan and Congo, and two from Ghana, who were overstaying in the city and involved in anti-social activities, have been arrested, officials said.

Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said that the accused have been remanded in a detention centre. One of them has been deported and the process is on to deport the others.

The city police also stepped up vigil to check the possible entry and exit points by roping in canine squads to check on foreign postal services and warehouses at the airport and other overseas courier services.

Traders to protest against GST notices tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Notices have been issued to small-scale traders based on their UPI transactions

The Karnataka State Association of Bakeries, Condiments and Small Enterprises has organised a protest rally at Freedom Park on Thursday, against the "unscientific" Goods and Services Tax (GST) notices issued by the Commercial Taxes Department to small-scale traders.

D.B. Pratap Shetty, president of the association, expressed concern over the GST notices to small-scale businesses like condiments stores, bakeries, milk sellers, vegetable vendors, and others, and said these notices had created a sense of fear among traders.

These notices have been issued based on transactions in their UPI payment gateway linked accounts.

"Most of our transactions – over 95% – are through digital payments," Mr. Shetty said, and warned that if their issues are not sorted out, they will launch a State-wide protest against the UPI payment system. "We will begin a campaign to break UPI scanners as a mark of protest," he warned.

He alleged that traders with annual transactions between ₹20 lakh and ₹40 lakh are being served notices, which goes against the standard GST norms.

While demanding the withdrawal of such notices, the association has demanded that the government allow traders with turnover exceeding ₹40 lakh per year to settle their dues under the presumptive tax scheme by paying a flat 1% tax based on available records.

Regional-level pension adalat on July 30

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The regional-level pension adalat for the Bengaluru HQ region will be held on July 30 at 11.30 a.m. at the Office of the Postmaster General.

The adalat is intended for pensioners and family pensioners who retired from the Department of Posts, Bengaluru HQ Region and have pending pension-related grievances.

Representations must be submitted to the Postmaster General, Bengaluru (HQ) Region, by July 25.

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Study reveals widespread decline in India's birds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A recent study has revealed a significant decline in many of India's bird species, underscoring the urgent need for targeted and sustained conservation efforts. The 'State of India's Birds 2023' report, produced by a consortium of leading research institutions and conservation organisations, has assessed the status of 942 bird species using data contributed by birdwatchers through the eBird citizen science platform.

According to the report, 204 species have suffered long-term decline, and 142 are currently declining.

The 'State of India's Birds 2023' report has assessed the status of 942 bird species using data contributed by thousands of birdwatchers through the eBird citizen science platform. FILE PHOTO

"Our findings reveal a sobering truth – India's diverse bird populations are facing significant decline, underscoring an urgent need for concerted conservation efforts," said Vivek Ramachandran, Fellow, Wildlife Biology and Conservation Programme at NCBS, and an author of the study.

Alarming trends
The report represents one of the largest biodiversity monitoring efforts in the global south. It classified 178 species as 'high conservation priority', 323 as 'moderate priority', and 441 as 'low priority.'

Birds with specialised diets, such as those feeding on vertebrate prey, carrion, or invertebrates, have declined the most, averaging over 25% long-term population loss. In contrast, species dependent on fruits or nectar have remained stable or even increased.

Habitat specialists from grasslands, scrublands, and wetlands have experienced the steepest declines. Winter migrants to India have also declined more sharply than resident species, raising further alarm.

According to a communique from NCBS, one of the main challenges of using eBird data is the variable effort put in by citizen scientists. Rather than standardising birding duration or distance, the team standardised analyses based on the number of species reported per checklist, which improved the comparability of data.

All the software and analytical methods developed for the project are open source, allowing researchers worldwide to build upon them.

"The analysis leveraged citizen science data from the eBird platform and developed a robust methodology to clean, organise, and analyse this semi-structured data to overcome biases. This framework allowed for the assessment of a larger number of bird species than previously possible and is intended to serve as a blueprint for regions with limited resources for traditional surveys," said Mr. Ramachandran.

Four more held in rowdy murder case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

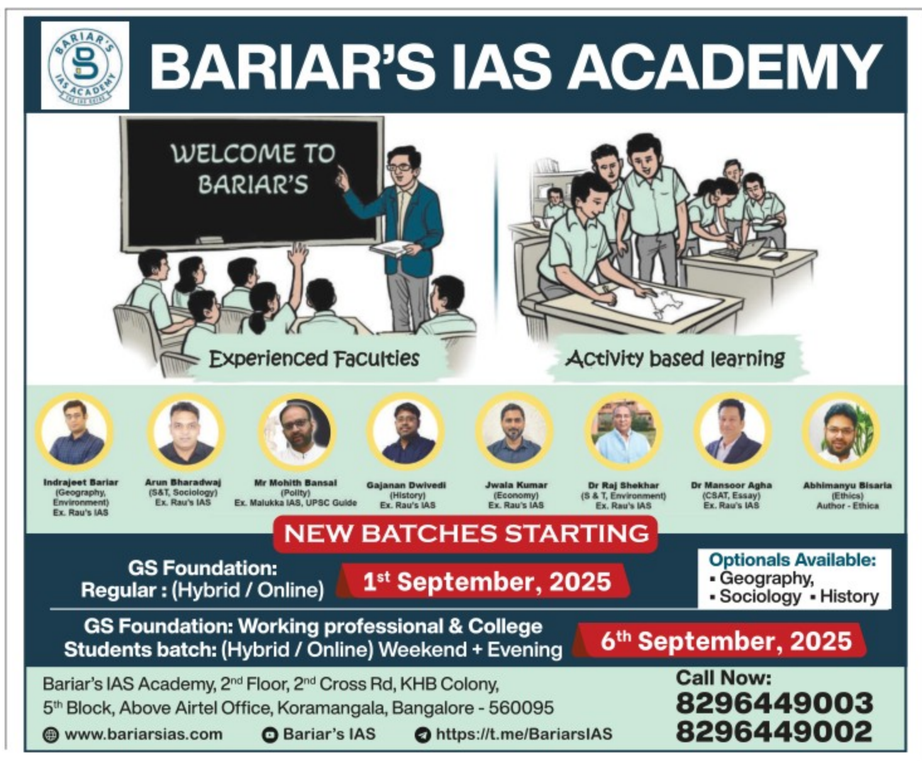
A special team of the East Division police has arrested four more accused in connection with the murder of rowdy Shivaprakash in Bengaluru.

The accused, identified as Avinash, Sudarshan, Murgesh, and Narasimha, were on the run and were tracked down from Dinnahalli village of Malur taluk. They have been taken into custody, the police said.

A total of 11 persons have been arrested in the case so far, while the prime accused, Jagadisha, is still on the run.

Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said that no one will be spared. On the alleged links of some officials with the accused, he said that the probe is on to ascertain the facts.

Reportedly, Shivaprakash had filed a complaint before the police against the threat perception he had, but no action was taken. Mr. Singh said that he would look into it and take necessary action.



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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Paytm's consolidated net profit in the first quarter of FY26

123 in ₹ crore. One97 Communications (Paytm) posted its first-ever quarterly profit since September 2024. This is a sharp turnaround from a loss of ₹840 crore in the same quarter last year. Its revenue from operations also rose 28% year-on-year. PTI

Number of people killed in Bangladesh jet crash

31 The Bangladesh Air Force training jet crashed into Milestone School and College in Dhaka's Uttara area on Monday, making it one of the country's deadliest aviation accidents. Among the dead were 25 children, many under 12. Authorities say the toll may rise further. PTI

Number of people killed in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday

15 According to the territory's civil defence agency, Israeli airstrikes hit the Al-Shati camp and Deir el-Balah. At least 13 were killed and 50+ injured at Al-Shati, a coastal camp now packed with displaced families. Two more died in Deir el-Balah, where Israel has expanded ground operations. AFP

The value of drugs seized in raids in Maharashtra

10.8 in ₹ lakh. Maharashtra police seized drugs in two separate operations in Palghar district. During a night patrol on Monday, they found 111.42 kg of opium in an abandoned car near Chinchur village. In a separate case, police caught two men with 2.33 kg of ganja. PTI

The magnitude of the earthquake that hit Russia's Kamchatka

6.4 A strong earthquake struck off the eastern coast of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, as per European Mediterranean Seismological Centre. The seismic event occurred at a depth of 28 kilometres beneath the Earth's surface. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Redeeming India's nuclear power promise

If India is to meet its ambitious target of 100 GW of power generating capacity by 2047, it needs foreign partners as well as private entities to participate in the nuclear sector which has been till now completely under the government

FULL CONTEXT

Rakesh Sood

The Union Budget for 2025-26 marked a significant shift in India's nuclear energy plan by announcing an ambitious target of 100 GW of power generating capacity by 2047, up from the present 8.18 GW. This positions nuclear power as a major pillar in India's energy mix, given the two goals of emerging as a developed country (*Viksit Bharat*) by 2047, and achieving "net zero emissions" by 2070.

Simultaneously, the Nuclear Energy Mission announced a special allocation of ₹20,000 crore to develop "at least five indigenously designed and operational Small Modular Reactors (SMR) by 2033." Such ambitious plans will need the involvement of private players, both domestic and foreign, into a hitherto government sector, which will require significant changes to the legislative, financial and regulatory framework. The government has indicated that some changes in the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010 are in the offing. However, such reforms also need a change in mind set.

Energy pillar: India's first Power Reactor Fuel Reprocessing plant at Tarapur. FILE PHOTO

India's nuclear journey

India had an early start, setting up Asia's first nuclear research reactor, Apsara, in 1956, and beginning work on Asia's first nuclear power reactors at Tarapore in 1963. As early as 1954, Dr. Homi Bhabha, the architect of India's nuclear programme, presented a target of generating 8 GW of nuclear power by 1980.

However, the journey has been long and difficult. Following India's war with China in 1962; its entry into the nuclear club in 1964; the decision to stay out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968; and the Peaceful Nuclear Explosion (PNE) test in 1974, India was excluded from the emerging nuclear order. International cooperation ceased and export controls slowed down the nuclear power programme. This led to the nuclear power target being pushed to 10 GW by 2000.

Moreover, India took time to successfully indigenise the design of the 220 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR), employed in Rajasthan. Its advantage was that it used natural uranium as fuel unlike the design of the Tarapur Light Water Reactor (LWR), which used Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) that India obtained from the U.S., and later, from France. Subsequently, the same 220 MW PHWR units were established at Narora, Kaiga, Kakrapar etc., and the design was upgraded to 540 MW (set up at Tarapur in 2005-06) and to 700 MW with two units becoming operational at Kakrapar in 2024.

After the nuclear tests in 1998, followed by intense negotiations with the U.S. and other strategic partners, India finally gained acceptance as a responsible nuclear power. It also got a special waiver from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

India was thus ready to resume exchanges with other nuclear powers to import both nuclear fuel and more advanced reactors to expand its nuclear energy programme.

However, the CLNDA created new difficulties that have prevented such anticipated external participation. In fact, Russia is the only country that is partnering with us at Kudankulum with six VVER-1000 power reactors because the government-to-government agreement, signed in 1988, predated the CLNDA.

Towards green development

To become a developed country by 2047, India's annual per capita income needs to grow from the current $2,800 to $22,000, and correspondingly, the GDP needs to grow from the current $4 trillion to over $35 trillion. There is a well-established correlation between economic growth and energy consumption. In 2022, India's per capita electricity consumption stood at 1,208 kWh, compared to 4,600 kWh for China, and over 12,500 kWh for the U.S.

India's electricity generation capacity, currently at 480 GW (divided almost equally between fossil fuels and renewables), will have to grow five-fold, accounting for growth in population and urbanisation. However, solar, wind, and small hydro projects provide only intermittent power. That is why out of 2030 terrawatt-hours (TWh) – the total electricity generated in 2024 – renewable energy, with half the generation capacity, accounted for only 240 TWh. Coal fired thermal plants accounted for 75% of energy generation.

The climate change commitments announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2021 at Glasgow COP26 of "net zero emissions by 2070, raising non-fossil energy generation capacity to 500 GW by 2030 while meeting 50% of the energy demand through renewables, and achieving a carbon intensity reduction of 45% over 2005 levels by 2030" means that India will not be able to rely on fossil fuels for its growth. Renewable energy is (including solar, hydro, wind, and biomass) is estimated to provide 20% of the demand and up to 25% with investments in battery and pumped storage. Therefore, the obvious candidate to fuel India's energy growth is nuclear power.

There is a renewed interest globally in nuclear power. This reflected in the Dubai 2023 COP28 'Declaration to Triple Nuclear Energy', acknowledging nuclear power as a critical input in reducing reliance on fossil fuels, enhancing energy security, and a move towards a low carbon future. In June, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Bank agreed to work together to support nuclear energy in developing countries, marking a significant policy shift. World Bank President Ajay Banga pointed out, "nuclear (energy) delivers base load power, which is essential to building modern economies."

Creating an enabling environment

The government is looking at three routes. One is to standardise the 220 MW PHWR design and apply it to Bharat Small Modular Reactors, which would significantly reduce costs and commissioning time. This could replace captive thermal power plants that today account for over 100 GW, and which will be replaced over the next two decades.

The second track is to scale up the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) plans for the 700 MW PHWR by facilitating land acquisition, streamlining licensing, and strengthening indigenous supply chains.

The third track is to accelerate negotiations with partners in France and U.S. that have been moving at a glacial pace for the last 15 years.

Under the Atomic Energy Act, nuclear power is a sector reserved by the government. The NPCIL is a government owned company that builds, owns, and operates the PHWRs, the first two Tarapur LWRs, and the Russian designed VVERs. Nuclear power financing is qualitatively different because of the higher upfront capital costs, lower operating costs, a lifecycle of 50-60 years, and costs associated with decommissioning as well as managing radioactive waste. The indigenised PHWR model has a capital cost of $2 million/MW while the equivalent cost for a coal fired thermal unit is just under a million. Given NPCIL's annual budget of $1.2 billion, the government has realised that to achieve the target of 100 GW, private sector companies will have to be brought into the sector, necessitating a comprehensive set of amendments to the Atomic Energy Act.

Questions of majority/minority ownership; whether the nuclear operator will be exclusively NPCIL; who has responsibility and control over the nuclear island part of the plant; and concerns over assured fuel supply and waste management responsibility will need to be discussed with potential stakeholders that include major players like Tatas, Adani, Ambani, Vedanta etc. All these will require amendments to the 1962 Act.

A set of comprehensive amendments will also be needed for the 2010 CLNDA especially with regards to its liability clause which affects not just the 'operator' but also the 'supplier' of nuclear power.

A third area is commercial disputes relating to tariffs. Nuclear electricity tariff for NPCIL is notified under the Atomic Energy Act. Generally, commercial disputes fall under the Electricity Act and are settled by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) but a recent dispute between NPCIL and Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam has led to conflicting views by the CERC and the Appellate Tribunal. The case is now under consideration before the Supreme Court. With the entry of the private sector into the field, should the tariff setting come into the 'levelised cost of energy' as applicable to thermal, solar, wind and hydro will depend on how the question of ownership and control are determined.

While India has had an impeccable nuclear safety record, the certification and safety oversight is the responsibility of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) that is 'autonomous' but not a legal entity and is subordinate to the Department of Atomic Energy. In 2011, a draft Bill was circulated to establish AERB as an independent regulator, but the Bill lapsed. With the entry of the private sector, the need for an independent regulator becomes paramount.

In addition, a raft of financial incentives will need to be introduced. While nuclear energy is a low-carbon energy source, it is not classified as "renewable", like solar or wind. Revising this classification would make nuclear power projects eligible for tax incentives and specially designed 'green financing' instruments. Long term power-purchase-agreements and provision for viability-gap-funding are other incentives. The sector also needs to be opened up to foreign direct investments, perhaps up to 49%, to ensure Indian ownership and control.

In the past, the process of reform has been tentative. In 2011, the NPCIL set up a Joint Venture (JV) with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), but it languished till it was revived last year. It will now build and operate four units of 700 MW each, scheduled to come up at Mahi Banswara in Rajasthan. Land acquisition has been underway and once completed, the first unit will take seven years. A JV with the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) is also being envisaged. Both the REC and NTPC are public sector units and these JVs will be wholly government entities.

However, if India has to deliver on the promise of 100 GW by 2047, it needs foreign partners and the private sector. While this has been accepted by the government, it now has to move forward with the reforms comprehensively and decisively.

Rakesh Sood is a former diplomat and is currently Distinguished Fellow at the Council For Strategic and Defence Research.

THE GIST

India had an early start, setting up Asia's first nuclear research reactor, Apsara, in 1956, and beginning work on Asia's first nuclear power reactors at Tarapore in 1963.

India's electricity generation capacity, currently at 480 GW (divided almost equally between fossil fuels and renewables), will have to grow five-fold, accounting for growth in population and urbanisation. However, solar, wind, and small hydro projects provide only intermittent power. Therefore, the obvious candidate to fuel India's energy growth is nuclear power.

Nuclear power financing is qualitatively different because of the higher upfront capital costs, lower operating costs, a lifecycle of 50-60 years, and costs associated with decommissioning as well as managing radioactive waste.

New Devadasi law with clauses on paternity test proposed

Inter-departmental consultation on the proposed Bill is almost complete and it could soon be brought before the Cabinet; it intends to do away with the need for the father's name in application forms and government identity cards

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Law and its impact

Since the Karnataka Devadasi (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1982
- 33 cases reported
- FIR lodged in 22 cases
- Conviction in four cases
- Seven cases in trial stage
- Acquittal in 11 cases

Survey of Devadasis
- 1993 – 22,873
- 2007 – 46,660
- 2025 – Fresh survey ordered by the SHRC to be conducted before October

Ballari and Vijayanagara districts estimated to have around 9,000 Devadasis

The new Bill was first proposed in 2018 after experts deliberated on the lacunae in the existing law.

In a bid to strengthen the legislation against the centuries-old Devadasi system, the Karnataka government is working on introducing a new law. It intends to do away with the need for the father's name in application forms and government identity cards, besides recognising the right of the child of Devadasi to identify the father by provisioning DNA test to prove paternity.

The new legislation, Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill, is currently being discussed to replace the more than four-decade-old Karnataka Devadasi (Prohibition and Dedication) Act, 1982. Devadasis and their children have been for long seeking a comprehensive legislation that could end the evil system and provide for proper relief and rehabilitation.

'Legitimate child'

Among other proposed provisions in the legislation, being drafted with the assistance of the Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion, National Law School of India University (NLSIU), are that any child of a Devadasi will be deemed as a "legitimate child" and will have the right to property with inheritance and succession following the Hindu Personal Law. The proposed legislation also provides the option for unwilling children of a Devadasi not to be compelled to declare the name of their father while applying for government identity cards such as such as passport, PAN, Aadhaar, and driving licence.

Providing the right to maintenance to the child, the proposed law puts the burden of disproving paternity on the person named as the father of the child. The provision provides the right to be availed of by a male child until he is a minor and a girl child until marriage. It suggests DNA test to establish paternity upon refusal after the child approaches the taluk committee seeking recognition of paternal bond. However, provision is also made to the person indicated as father to retain the right to disprove claim of paternity through appropriate biochemical evidence.

Penal clause

While the existing law has set punishment to be a maximum of three years for those performing, permitting, taking part or abetting the performance of any ceremony or act for dedicating women as a Devdasi, the proposed law increases the imprisonment term to a maximum of five years with minimum imprisonment to be two years and a fine of ₹1 lakh.

"The new Bill was first proposed in 2018 after experts deliberated on the lacunae in the existing legislation. There is a need to overhaul the legislation to protect the interests of Devadasis. Consultations were held with Devadasis and their children before the proposed Bill was drafted," said R.V. Chandrashekar, a researcher at the Bengaluru-based NLSIU.

Consultation process

Sources said that the inter-departmental consultation is almost complete, and the proposed Bill could soon be brought before the Cabinet ahead of it being piloted in the legislature.

Among the many other perceived benefits of the Bill is comprehensive rehabilitation for Devadasis, many of whom do not have land or house of their own, and are struggling with both social and acute economic backwardness, besides battling health issues. Activists say that while only 46,660 Devadasis have been identified, a large number remain outside the list based on which benefits, including pension, are being provided by the government.

Set up 40,000 solar IP sets under KUSUM, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Harnessing the sun: The Centre and State governments provide 30% and 50% subsidy, respectively, for installing solar-powered pumpsets. FILE PHOTO

The State government has set a target of installing 40,000 solar pumpsets under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Ujra Suraksha Evam Uttahn Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) for de-dieselisation of the farm sector and enhancing the income of farmers.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reviewed the scheme on Tuesday and said the Centre and State would provide 30% and 50% subsidy, respectively, for the installation of solar pumpsets. The beneficiaries have to spend 20% of the cost.

He directed officials of the Energy Department to take initiatives for installing 40,000 pumpsets this year.

An additional 27,000 farmers have submitted applications under the scheme, and the State government would spend ₹752 crore, the Chief Minister said.

Out of the 4.5 lakh illegal IP sets, he said two lakh pumpsets had been regularised, and officials had been told to explore ways to bring illegal pumpsets under the KUSUM scheme.

A sum of ₹12,785 crore had been set aside for IP sets and ₹11,720 crore had been released as of February 2025. A sum of ₹16,021 crore had been allocated for the same purpose, the Chief Minister said.

Energy Minister K.J. George and senior officials attended the meeting. Earlier, the Chief Minister also chaired a board meeting of the Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd..

Digital survey of black-headed caterpillar disease in coconut trees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to conduct a digital survey of the spread of the black-headed caterpillar disease in coconut plantations in several districts.

An app has been developed for conducting the survey from a private agency under the guidance of the Horticulture Department. A sum of ₹25 lakh has been released for the purpose. The application will be used for undertaking the survey of the disease, according to Dinesh Gooli Gowda, Congress MLC.

The MLC, who wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah about a significant increase in the disease in coconut trees, said plantations spread across 42,000 hectares had been damaged.

Multiple stories of humiliation they suffer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Thirty-two-year-old S. Radha has been running from pillar to post to get her daughter admitted to a government-run residential school for a year now. The child whose documents do not provide the father's name, but has 'XYZ' marked in the column to name the father, has been denied admission.

"I have been humiliated by officials. Having to fill the father's name mandatorily has to be removed to make our lives easy," said Ms. Radha, a Davadasi and a resident of Nagenahalli, near Hosapete in Vijayanagara district. The woman, who dropped out of PUC more than a decade ago, is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts. Similarly, 22-year-old Ravi Kombenavar, a civil engineering diploma holder from Nidugundi in Vijayapura district, has 'XXX' written in place of his father's name.

Online applications

The need for naming the father has become a problem, especially after the application process has been moved online and without filling the name, the application remains incomplete.

"Though officials frustrate us by asking us to put some random name whenever there is a problem, I do not do it. How can I create documents for some imaginary name?" asked Manjula Malige, daughter of a Devadasi and an MSW graduate working at Hosapete-based NGO Sakhi Trust. "We want the government to allow us to name our mother in the father's column or just write Devadasi."

Ms. Malige faced a problem when she applied for a certificate to get benefits under Article 371 J of the Constitution.

The Devadasi children have been facing the problem for a long time, and recently, the daughter of a Devadasi fought successfully for months to get her passport done without naming the father.

"Many others have had a problem of the grandfather's name or a maternal uncle's name filled in the father's name column. When the women migrated looking for livelihood, they would leave their young child in their maternal homes. During admissions, either the grandfather or uncle would have provided names," said Renukamma from Kudligi.

According to Koppal resident Yamanurappa Huchaiaya Swamy, son of a Devadasi and coordinator of the Vimuktha Devadasi Mahila Mathu Makkala Vedike spread across 14 districts, most Devadasis come from Dalit and backward communities.

'Bill necessary'

"The Bill has become necessary because there is no reservation or any other comprehensive benefits for Devadasi children. In most cases, Devadasis are abandoned by men, who do not provide their name to the child, and there is no value for relationship," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
O/o THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND BASIN MANAGER,
MAHANADI BASIN, AT-BURLA, DISTRICT - SAMBALPUR, PIN - 768017
E-mail Id - cebmumbburla@gmail.com

'e' Procurement Notice No-CE& BM-MB-07/2025-2026 (Online)

BID IDENTIFICATION NO- CE & BM-MB-07/2025-2026 (Online)

1.	Name of the work	:	Renovation of Canal System of Hirakud Dam Project (Bheden Canal Section, Bargarh Irrigation Division, Bargarh).
2.	No of works	:	One (01) number
3.	Class of Contractor	:	" A Class" and "Special Class"
4.	Bid Identification No	:	CE&BM-MB-07/2025-2026 (Online)
5.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs.13.99 Crores
6.	Period of Completion	:	24 (Twenty-Four) Calendar Months
7.	Date and time of availability of Bid Documents in the portal	:	Dated- 24.07.2025 at 11.30 AM to Dated- 14.08.2025 up to 5.00 PM
8.	Last date / time for receipt of Bids in the portal	:	Dated- 14.08.2025 up to 5.00 PM
9.	Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I).	:	Dated 16.08.2025 at 11.30 AM, O/o Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla.
10.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla, Dist-Sambalpur,Odisha,768017 Email Id: cebmumbburla@gmail.com

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation/ erratum of tender can also be seen in the said Website.
2. Further details can be seen from Government Website **http://tendersodisha.gov.in.**

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Mahanadi Basin, Burla

A-: OIPR-32508/11/0014/2526

Khandre calls for ban on livestock grazing in forest areas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre has directed Forest Department officials to take steps to ban livestock grazing in all forest areas of Karnataka.

This order comes in the backdrop of the death of five tigers in the M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary on June 26. A tigress and its four cubs were reported to have died of poisoning by the owner of the cow which was killed by the big cat.

In a note to the Additional Chief Secretary and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Mr. Khandre said that villagers living in the perimeter of the M.M. Hills and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary are allowing large numbers of livestock to graze in the forest area.

Diseases too

This, he said, apart from causing man-animal conflict, is hindering forest regeneration, causing a shortage of fodder for herbivorous animals in the forest and also leading to the possibility of wildlife contracting infectious diseases from the livestock.

Man attacks estranged wife, mother-in-law outside court

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

A man who had come to attend a family court hearing over a divorce petition in Saundatti of Belagavi district on Tuesday attacked his estranged wife and mother-in-law with a machete. Muttappa Ganachari of Savatagi village in Bailhongal taluk of Belagavi district married the woman from Karikatti village in Saundatti taluk.

However, following domestic dispute, they were living separately and filed for divorce. On Tuesday, they both came to attend a hearing of their petition.

The assault happened after they came out of the court hall. Muttappa attacked his estranged wife with a machete from behind and also his mother-in- law.

The woman who suffered grievous injuries was initially treated at Saundatti Government Hospital and subsequently, rushed to KMCRI Hospital in Hubballi.

The Saundatti police took Muttappa into custody.

Reservation in promotions: DPAR starts collecting data following allegations of rules violation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The exercise comes after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to the CM, highlighting opportunities being denied to SC/ST employees

Following allegations of employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) being denied opportunities in promotion across government departments, the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) has started collecting information from all departments.

Status of backlog posts

The exercise, which began on Tuesday, comes after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, highlighting opportunities being denied to SC/ST employees. Sources said the Chief Minister had asked for a report from the DPAR. The department had also sought information about the present status of backlog posts, status of reservation in promotion, and the percentage of SC/ST employees in all cadres.

"Respective departments have been asked to submit the department promotion committee proceedings, seniority list, and Government Orders issued pertaining to the promotions for verification," sources said.

Earlier, the Karnataka State Government SC/ST Employees Association had also petitioned the government, complaining that seniority was being ignored and promotion was being denied despite the Consequential Seniority Act coming into force in 2017.

Seniority list

Association president D. Chandrashekaraiah told *The Hindu* that the seniority list was not being drawn properly and every effort was being made to "deny" promotion to SC/ST employees. "We have flagged the issue to the government multiple times and despite our concerns, seniority is being overlooked by the department promotion committee," he alleged.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

21st ANNIVERSARY

Smt.**SUSILA SUBRAMANIAM**
W/o.Late K.P.Subramaniam
07-05-1928 - 23-07-2004
Fondly Remembered by
K.S.MOHAN, UMA MURALI, SHWETHA, SHRADHA & APSARA

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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No: ACA/PG.ADM/ /2025-26 **Date:18.07.2025**

PG ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

Bengaluru North University invites applications for admissions to the following PG Courses at Bengaluru North University, PG Centre, Kolar and in Affiliated Colleges of Bengaluru North University for the Academic year 2025-26 Through the UUCMS Online portal **http://uucms.karnataka.gov.in./Login /Index**

A. COURSES OFFERED AT BENGALURU NORTH UNIVERSITY- POST GRADUATE CENTRE, KOLAR

(I) **Faculty of Arts:** M.A. Kannada, English, Economics, Political Science, and Social Work (MSW).
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(III) Faculty of Commerce and Management: M.Com.

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C. M.A. Education

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF ADMISSION APPLICATION FORMS

1. Applications received only through UUCMS Portal **http://uucms.karnataka.gov.in. Login /Index** only.
2. The Candidate can apply to multiple courses by selecting the interested course in the one login and should pay the fee for each course separately.
3. Application fee of Rs. 260/- (Rs.130/- Only for SC/ST/Cat-I / Disability/Trans gender Student). Candidates shall pay application fee through UUCMS Payment link.
4. For details of eligibility criteria, seat matrix, course fees, Admission Rules and Regulations, please visit the University Website at: **www.bnu.karnataka.gov.in.**
5. **Starting date of submitting Application through UUCMS: 18.07.2025, Last date for submission of application without fine: 18.08.2025, Last date for submission of application with fine: Rs. 200/-: 30.08.2025, Submission of filled application with relevant documents to the University: 01.09.2025**
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7. **For more details contact Ph: 6364710762, 9071078023, 7892087298, 9945226666 (UUCMS).**

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FULL CONTEXT

How different constitutional drafts imagined India

Between 1895 and 1948, various constitutional drafts were proposed reflecting contrasting ideologies — from early liberalism to Gandhian decentralism to radical socialism

Prathmesh Kher

India's path to becoming a republic was paved with a range of constitutional visions articulated by diverse political thinkers and movements before the adoption of the 1950 Constitution. Between 1895 and 1948, various drafts were proposed reflecting contrasting ideologies – from early liberalism to Gandhian decentralism to radical socialism. These five key constitutional drafts that preceded the final Constitution offer insights into differing interpretations of sovereignty, governance, economic justice, and cultural identity.

GETTY IMAGES

Early constitutional visions

The Constitution of India Bill, 1895, attributed anonymously but often linked to early nationalists like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, was one of the earliest efforts to frame a constitution for self-rule within the British Empire. Containing 110 articles, this draft proposed representative government, individual rights, legal equality, and a clear separation of powers. It emphasised civil liberties such as freedom of speech, the right to property, and equality before the law, setting forth a legalistic and liberal vision inspired by British constitutional models. It was more an aspiration for dominion status than a call for complete independence.

In contrast, M.N. Roy's Constitution of Free India: A Draft (1944), created under the Radical Democratic Party, was grounded in the philosophy of radical humanism and advocated a participatory form of democracy. Roy envisioned a federal India composed of linguistically organised provinces and promoted popular sovereignty as the bedrock of governance. His draft introduced the right to revolt as a safeguard against tyranny and featured a robust Bill of Rights encompassing civil and socio-economic guarantees. Citizens' committees were proposed to ensure grassroots participation, making Roy's vision strikingly ahead of its time in its emphasis on decentralisation, transparency, and social accountability. This document went well beyond traditional liberalism, promoting direct democratic control and economic equity.

A distinctive feature of Roy's draft was its rejection of parliamentary sovereignty in favour of a constitutionally entrenched republic where citizens, not legislators, were the ultimate locus of power. Roy's insistence on institutionalising political education, through mechanisms such as citizens' committees, highlighted his commitment to transforming subjects into active citizens. The draft was also unique in its clarity and precision: the Preamble defined the republic as a "free, secular, federal, and democratic" polity, and the structure of government envisioned checks against bureaucratic centralism through provincial autonomy and public participation. Importantly, Roy's draft placed economic and social rights on equal footing with civil liberties – anticipating the eventual Fundamental Rights-Directive Principles split in the 1950 Constitution. Yet unlike the non-justiciable nature of the Directive Principles, Roy's socio-economic rights were enforceable and binding.

Homogenous yet secular

The Constitution of the Hindusthan Free State Act (1944), associated with nationalist right-wing circles such as the Hindu Mahasabha, presented a sharply contrasting perspective. It proposed a unitary state structure and declared India a sovereign "Hindusthan Free State," emphasising cultural unification through one language, one law, and one national culture. Yet, contrary to prevailing assumptions, the draft did explicitly guarantee religious freedom and equal treatment across castes and creeds. It affirmed freedom of conscience and the right to profess, practise, and propagate religion subject to public order and morality. It barred the State from endowing any religion or discriminating based on religious belief. The draft also explicitly rejected any state religion for the Hindusthan Free State or its provinces and prohibited the use of public funds for sectarian purposes. These provisions underscore a commitment to formal secularism and non-discrimination in public employment and education, despite the document's culturally homogenising tone and emphasis on national unity. The juxtaposition of these liberal guarantees with an overarching nationalist framework reflects the tensions within the ideological thrust of the draft.

In addition, the 1944 draft was one of the few to contain an explicit reference to the right of secession, stating that provinces could opt out of the Union under certain conditions – an unusual feature given its otherwise unitary orientation. It also mandated the state to promote "moral and spiritual values," thus embedding a civilisational mission into its constitutional logic. Its provisions for emergency powers and the duties of citizens echoed a strong state-centric ethos, while still including democratic processes such as direct election to the legislature and regular judicial review.

Decentralism to socialist democracy

On a very different note, the Gandhian Constitution for Free India, drafted in 1946 by Shriman Narayan Agarwal with a foreword by Mahatma Gandhi, sought to ground India's constitutional framework in indigenous traditions and moral values. This draft was built upon Gandhi's principles of non-violence, trusteeship, and rural self-sufficiency. It proposed a confederation of self-sustaining village republics (gram swaraj) as the basic unit of governance. Rejecting both industrial capitalism and Western legalism, the Gandhian model envisioned decentralised, minimalist governance led by ethical self-regulation rather than law enforcement. With its strong focus on khadi, agriculture, and cottage industries, it aimed to create a self-reliant, spiritually grounded republic, though critics found it impractical for governing a complex modern state.

Strikingly, however, the draft included a provision for the right to bear arms – a somewhat ironic inclusion in a constitution guided by Gandhian non-violence. Article 6 of the draft proclaimed that "every citizen shall have the right to keep and bear arms in accordance with such regulations as may be made by the Legislature," revealing a pragmatic concession to the need for self-defence or resistance, even within a pacifist framework. This dissonance between the ideal of ahimsa and the constitutional recognition of arms underscores the tensions inherent in attempting to reconcile ethical philosophy with the imperatives of statecraft.

By 1948, the Socialist Party, under the leadership of Jayaprakash Narayan, offered its Draft Constitution of the Republic of India as a counter-proposal to the official draft prepared by the Constituent Assembly. This document was firmly rooted in Marxist and democratic socialist thought, advocating the nationalisation of all major industries, banks, and key services. It called for the abolition of private ownership of the means of production and proposed land reforms and workers' control over factories. This socialist draft envisioned a unicameral legislature composed of representatives from key social groups –workers, peasants, and intellectuals – thus rejecting the traditional liberal representative model in favour of a class-based system. It went further to assert that all land and natural resources were national property, and that planning would be conducted by a Central Planning Commission accountable to the legislature. Strikingly, the draft also offered an early commitment to gender equality and prohibited caste discrimination in any form. Civil liberties were acknowledged, but the document prioritised economic democracy, with socio-economic rights taking precedence over procedural safeguards. While it was bold in its redistributive commitments, the draft was less detailed in its administrative and judicial architecture, assuming that radical economic transformation would organically support political democracy.

Comparative analysis

When viewed comparatively, these drafts reflect divergent paths for India's future republic. The 1895 Bill and Roy's draft both championed democracy, but Roy's version expanded it through mechanisms like the right to revolt and participatory governance, departing significantly from the legalistic, elite-centred liberalism of the earlier proposal. Centralisation versus decentralisation is another crucial axis of comparison. While the Hindusthan Free State Act and the Socialist Party draft leaned towards a strong centralised authority to preserve national unity or effect economic restructuring, Roy's and the Gandhian drafts were deeply committed to decentralised governance, albeit in different ways – Roy through institutional federalism and democratic oversight, and Gandhi through autonomous village self-rule grounded in moral authority.

Economically, the spectrum ranged from the minimalist and agrarian Gandhian model, to Roy's emphasis on democratic economic planning, to the Socialist Party's full-fledged state socialism. The Hindusthan Free State draft, while largely silent on economic redistribution, offered a more complex picture than often presumed – it prioritised national cohesion but enshrined specific liberal protections around religious freedom and equality. Meanwhile, the 1895 Bill reflected an absence of economic radicalism, concerned primarily with civil liberties and political representation. Cultural and identity politics also played out markedly differently. The Hindusthan Free State draft projected a homogenised, majoritarian cultural identity, in contrast to the pluralistic and secular ethos implicit in Roy's draft and the Socialist Party's vision. The Gandhian model, while rooted in Indian traditions, emphasised unity through moral and communal harmony rather than cultural uniformity.

On civil liberties, the 1895 Bill and Roy's draft were strongest, both incorporating detailed rights frameworks. The Socialist Party draft prioritised economic rights over political ones, whereas the Gandhian draft focused more on duties and community values than on formal rights. The Hindusthan Free State draft, while ideologically nationalist, nevertheless provided robust constitutional guarantees for religious freedom and non-discrimination, challenging the assumption that it was devoid of liberal principles. In all, these constitutional drafts capture a vibrant pre-independence debate on the nature of the Indian state, reflecting ideological diversity and differing assumptions about governance, society, and citizenship. Though none of these drafts were adopted wholesale, elements from each filtered into the 1950 Constitution. Roy's ideas on decentralisation and rights, the Gandhian notion of panchayati raj, the Socialist commitment to economic justice, and even the legalistic structure of the 1895 Bill all left their mark. Their greatest contribution, however, may lie in showcasing the democratic imagination at play even before the republic was born – a testament to India's rich constitutional legacy and the multitude of futures it once contemplated.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Is it OK to say 'I am studying the English'?"

"It sounds perfectly good to me."

"You mean I don't have to say 'I am studying English' or 'I am studying the English language'?"

"Wait a minute! There's a difference between 'I am studying English' and 'I am studying the English'. Both are grammatically correct, but they mean different things. When you say 'I am studying English', it means you are studying the English language. Similarly, 'I am studying Italian' would imply that you are studying the Italian language."

"I know that, but what if on the other hand you say 'I am studying the English'?"

"It means you are studying the English people, not the language."

"I see. So if I say 'I am studying the French', it means that I am studying the French people."

"That's right! You could also say, 'I am studying the Americans, I am studying the Italians'."

"OK, OK, I think I am beginning to understand now."

"Good. How was the party yesterday?"

"It was great, but..."

"So you really enjoyed it."

"No! I hardly got anything to eat. There wasn't enough food to go round. Everyone was dissatisfied."

"But I thought you said the food was good."

"It was. But..."

"Well, if the food was good, but you went home hungry, you were unsatisfied, not dissatisfied."

"What's the difference between unsatisfied and dissatisfied?"

"Good question. Let's take the example of food. If you go to a restaurant and are dissatisfied with the food, it means that you weren't happy with the quality of the food."

"In other words, the food served did not come up to my expectations."

"Exactly! You had expected the food to be much better than what it was. You had expected to enjoy the food, but didn't."

"OK. What does unsatisfied mean?"

"If you go home unsatisfied, it means you go home hungry."

"Because there is not enough food?"

"Could be. But remember this, we are dissatisfied with the dinner when the food is disappointing..."

"... when the food has not met our expectations. We are unsatisfied, when we are still hungry!"

"Exactly!"

"You should have seen my father yesterday. He was really angry."

"Your father, angry? He is the most laid-back person I've ever seen in my life."

"Laid-back person? What does that mean?"

"When you say that someone is laid-back it means that they are relaxed, unworried."

"In other words, they are easygoing."

"That's right. For example, Ramesh is one laid-back guy. He never worries about anything. My physics teacher is not what I would call laid-back."

Published in The Hindu on May 6, 1997.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Here is a quiz on various events that happened on July 23

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

On this day in 1952, the Free Officers, a nationalistic military group led by _____, engineered a coup that overthrew King Farouk I of Egypt, ending the monarchy and bringing the leader to power. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

This former emperor of Ethiopia was born on this day in 1892. Widely considered to be a defining figure in modern Ethiopian history, he is accorded divine importance in Rastafari, an Abrahamic religion that emerged in the 1930s. Who was he?

QUESTION 3

This English actor was born on this day in 1989. He is one of the most recognisable actors in the world for a role he played in a film series from 2001 to 2011. Based on a fantasy books series, this bespectaled role catapulted him to fame. Name the actor and the character.

QUESTION 4

This American activist, born on this day, became internationally known in the late 1990s after U.S. President Bill Clinton admitted to having had an affair with her during her days as a White House intern between 1995 and 1997. Who was she?

QUESTION 5

This company, on this day, sold its first automobile — a Model A. Five years later, it introduced the hugely influential Model T. Name the company.

Visual question:
Identify this American astronaut who, on this day in 1999, became the first woman to command a space shuttle mission. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. India had hosted an earlier version of the FIDE tournament in 2002. This player won the tournament. **Ans: Viswanathan Anand**
2. The meaning of the Persian word 'Shah mat'. **Ans: The King is helpless/dead**
3. The first official world champion of Chess. **Ans: Wilhelm Steinitz**
4. The name of the rating system that measure's a player's prowess in the game. **Ans: Elo**
5. The number of moves played in the longest [known] chess game in history. **Ans: 269**
Visual: Name the player and the computer he is playing against. **Ans: Garri Kasparov; Deep thought**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Erfanally Oosmany| Arjun Debnath| Sukdev Shet| Shivansh Tiwari

Word of the day

Piquancy:
a tart spicy quality; the quality of being agreeably stimulating or mentally exciting

Synonyms: tang, zest, nip

Usage: *I liked the piquancy of the chilli in the sauce.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/piquancypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈpiːkənt/, /ˈpiːˌkɑːnt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Free bird: The British Navy's F-35B fighter aircraft takes off from the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport on Tuesday. ANI

Grounded U.K. F-35 jet flies out of Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After over a month-long uncertainty, the F-35B fighter jet of the Royal Air Force, U.K., which had been grounded since June 14, flew out from the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in Kerala on Tuesday.

The aircraft departed for Darwin in Australia. A U.K. engineering team completed the repairs and safety checks, allowing the aircraft to resume active service. In a statement, a British High Commission spokesperson said, "The U.K. remains very grateful for the support and collaboration of the Indian authorities and airport teams throughout the repair and recovery process". The British authorities have to pay around ₹5 lakh as parking fees to the airport.

A final salute: huge crowds line streets to bid VS farewell

Hundreds throng Durbar Hall to pay their last respects to Kerala's former Chief Minister; people bid goodbye with revolutionary slogans as bus carrying the mortal remains passed by them

S.R. Praveen
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala witnessed an outpouring of grief on its streets on Tuesday, over the passing of a leader whose life trajectory and political journey closely parallels that of the modern history of the State, freed from the chains of feudal oppression.

Hundreds gathered on the roads from the Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram to his home town Alappuzha to catch one last glimpse of former Kerala Chief Minister and Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] leader V.S. Achuthanandan, who passed away on Monday.

Adieu comrade: Funeral procession of the former CM passing through Thiruvananthapuram city on Tuesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

The mortal remains of the leader were carried in the hearse from the his residence and placed at the Durbar Hall in the Secretariat for the public to pay their last respects. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, CPI(M) general secretary M.A. Baby, State secretary M.V. Govindan, Polit Bureau members Brinda Karat and Prakash Karat and Ministers escorted the body to the hall.

Teary-eyed and with cracking voices, the people bid goodbye with revolutionary slogans as Achuthanandan passed by them for one last time.

The slogans never ceased throughout the journey, which is expected to reach Alappuzha only early on Wednesday.

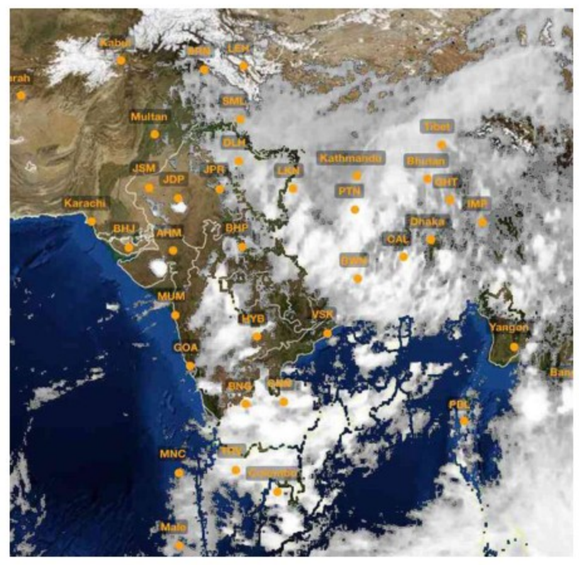
State funeral

The funeral will be held with full State honours at Punnapra-Vayalar Martyrs' Memorial at Valiya Chudukkad at 3 p.m.

He will be laid to rest close to the final resting places of legendary communist figures, including P. Krishna Pillai, T.V. Thomas, N. Sreedharan, P.K. Chandranandan, and K.R. Gouri.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Muzaffarabad, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	33.6	27.2	Kozhikode	29	28.2	24.4
Ahmedabad	9	34.5	26.6	Kurnool	0.3	32.4	24.2
Aizawl	33	33.0	22.7	Lucknow	—	36.4	28.1
Allahabad	—	37.6	28.0	Madurai	—	36.6	26.6
Bengaluru	1.4	27.2	19.7	Mangaluru	39.1	25.8	23.4
Bhopal	3	33.0	24.8	Mumbai	108	30.1	25.2
Bhubaneswar	—	34.4	26.0	Mysuru	5	28.0	20.0
Chandigarh	18	29.6	24.8	New Delhi	—	32.6	26.0
Chennai	—	31.6	27.0	Patna	—	35.5	29.2
Coimbatore	1	29.6	22.4	Port Blair	13.6	30.2	24.8
Dehradun	12	31.0	22.9	Puducherry	—	34.9	23.1
Gangtok	28.4	26.6	18.4	Pune	20	28.9	24.1
Goa	73	28.5	24.2	Raipur	31.7	33.0	26.2
Guwahati	7	35.1	25.6	Ranchi	6	31.3	24.0
Hubballi	—	26.0	22.0	Shillong	33	26.4	18.2
Hyderabad	—	31.8	23.1	Shimla	33	22.2	18.8
Imphal	—	33.4	27.5	Srinagar	0.2	30.2	23.2
Jaipur	—	35.0	27.6	Thiruvananthapuram	0.8	29.8	23.2
Kochi	20	28.4	23.8	Tiruchi	—	36.9	26.6
Kohima	—	26.2	20.9	Vijayawada	15	32.0	25.0
Kolkata	—	36.0	28.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.2	26.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.14	..19	44	 59	68	.....
Bengaluru	.40	..22	46	 30	63	.....
Chennai	.15	..20	83	 17	50	.....
Delhi	.31	..70	52	... 110	93	.....
Hyderabad	.39	..23	46	 99	95	.....
Kolkata	.10	..70	25	 28	41	.....
Lucknow	...9	..35	62	 53	73	.....
Mumbai	.20	..26	20	 35	64	.....
Pune	..—	..45	79	 29	57	.....
Visakhapatnam	..—	..—	.—	..... —	.....—	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dholpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 217 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Anganwadi workers oppose move to use facial recognition tech in ICDS programmes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Anganwadi workers have opposed the Union government's move to use facial recognition technology (FRT) for the implementation of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programmes in Karnataka.

At a public consultation meeting organised by the Karnataka State Anganwadi Workers Union and Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, Karnataka, on Tuesday, they alleged that the FRT would "destroy the privacy, and personal and constitutional rights of the beneficiaries". They claimed that due to the FRT, around two lakh beneficiaries in the State were likely to be excluded from the ICDS programmes. Anganwadi workers gathered at the event explained the problems in uploading data as well as fears of data breach. Rajavati Patil, an anganwadi worker from Aland, said that while they are expected to provide photographic evidence of beneficiaries, due to glitches in the software and internet problem, often they are shown as "invalid", which bars them from accessing benefits.

They claim that due to the FRT, around two lakh beneficiaries in Karnataka are likely to be excluded from the ICDS programmes

Sushila, another anganwadi worker from Udupi district, said that before distributing foodgrains, beneficiaries are asked for Aadhaar number and OTP along with their FRT photo. But people refuse to provide the OTP for fear of misuse of money in their bank account.

Dipa Sinha, economist, said that while the Union government had been saying that the FRT would help prevent leakages and make the work of anganwadi workers easier, it had not served either purpose. Ms. Sinha pointed out that the Union government was cutting funding for ICDS every year.

Varalakshmi, president of the Karnataka State Anganwadi Workers Union, said the Minister of Women and Child Development of Karnataka and a team of officials have met the Union Minister for Women and Child Development five times and expressed their opposition to the FRT, but to no avail.

Usha, Joint Director of Women and Child Development Department, said that the FRT was adopted to streamline the ICDS programmes and deliver the scheme directly to the beneficiaries, and 88% coverage had been achieved in the State.

"The government has not excluded any beneficiaries whose photos are not synced from the FRT. The department will provide technical training to anganwadi workers and also take steps to improve the FRT," Ms. Usha added.

Quality concerns continue to haunt Polavaram project

G.V.R. Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

Despite repeated recommendations from a team of international experts, it appears no significant steps have been taken to implement quality control measures in the execution of the Polavaram irrigation project.

The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti has been persistent in pushing for action, but progress on this front remains sluggish.

Six months after the work began on the reconstruction of the diaphragm wall, only 30% of the structure has been completed, and critical quality control mechanisms are yet to be fully operationalised. Serious structural setbacks have occurred, with the old diaphragm wall – built at a cost of hundreds of crores – having been damaged.

'Guide-bund'

Additionally, the 'guide-bund', valued at nearly ₹100 crore, suffered damage. Uncontrolled seepage through both the upper and lower cofferdams has caused substantial losses, forcing the government to spend more to manage the excess water discharge.

According to information, the manual and guidelines relating to quality control are yet to be published.

Council appeals to MEA on Nimisha case

The Hindu Bureau
PALAKKAD

The Save Nimisha Priya International Action Council has appealed to the Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to allow its representatives to travel to Yemen for crucial talks with the family of Talal Abdo Mahdi, the victim in the Nimisha Priya case.

The Action Council in a memorandum to MEA Secretary, sought a relaxation of the existing travel ban to Yemen for its five-member team. It also requested the Central government to depute two members to lead the discussions.

The five-member team proposed to travel to Yemen comprise the council's legal advisor Subhash Chandran K.R., treasurer N.K. Kunhammed, Yemen returnee Sajeev Kumar, Kerala Haj Committee chairman Hussain Saqafi Chullikkode, and Yemen expert Hamid.

The council assured that it would raise the diyah or blood money required to save Nimisha Priya once the talks are finalised with the family without seeking any government funds.

THE HINDU
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Age	Not more than 55 years of age at the time of entry into pilotage service.
Contract Period	Initially for 3 years (extendable by 3 years subject to medical fitness and age not exceeding 65 years).
No. of Vacancies	5 (Five) nos.

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B. R. Ravi Kumar
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No.537, 10th 'B' Cross, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore - 560 064

Agony of exit

Dhankhar's resignation as V-P is a setback for parliamentary democracy

The abrupt decision by Jagdeep Dhankhar to resign as the Vice-President of India raises several questions about the relationship between the executive and Parliament. Also in focus are the dynamics within the ruling BJP. The Vice-President is also the chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Mr. Dhankhar is the first Vice-President in the history of the Republic to resign this way – some of his predecessors who resigned before completing their term had the reason of moving on to get elected as the President of India. While his resignation letter cites health reasons, it is clear that his decision was driven by other factors which remain speculative at this point. What is evident is that some of the developments on Monday had snowballed into a situation in which Mr. Dhankhar found exit to be the only viable path. He was active in his duties as the Chair, on the first day of the monsoon session of Parliament, and his office had also announced his public engagements for the week. After a health incident earlier this year, Mr. Dhankhar had returned to active public life, but nothing that had happened on Monday necessitated a health-related decision. However, his decisions and statements on Monday citing parliamentary rules were in conflict with the script that the government had prepared for the removal of a Delhi High Court judge on charges of alleged corruption. His relationship with the executive had been souring for a while, but his position on judicial accountability, and the relative roles of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in seeking it, turned out to be an inflection point, as it appears.

Mr. Dhankhar's conduct as Chair of the Rajya Sabha during the last three years has been controversial. His partisan approach led to a motion for his removal by the Opposition, another first in parliamentary history. He questioned the inclusion of the words 'secular' and 'socialist' in the Constitution, publicly aligning with the RSS's call for a debate on them. He has been a champion of parliamentary supremacy in the context of judicial independence and vocal about corruption in the judiciary. While seeking to uphold the supremacy of Parliament and to draw a line of acceptable conduct for the judiciary, he entertained an Opposition move to impeach Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court who had made communally charged remarks in public. Mr. Dhankhar acknowledged receiving a motion signed by over 50 MPs for Justice Yadav's removal and said he was verifying their signatures. He had also accepted an Opposition motion for the removal of the Delhi judge. Mr. Dhankhar had few options other than what he did, going by the rules. But that put him on a collision course with the government. His resignation weakens India's parliamentary democracy.

Different directions

The AIADMK and the BJP are taking conflicting positions on power-sharing

Three months after their uneasy revival of electoral ties, the AIADMK and the BJP are yet to find common ground on the nature of government that would be formed in Tamil Nadu were the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to win next year's Assembly elections. Union Home Minister and the BJP's principal electoral strategist, Amit Shah, had unilaterally declared in April that a "coalition government" would be formed – a stance that he has reiterated multiple times – and that the BJP will be a part of such an arrangement. However, the AIADMK leader, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, who passively watched Mr. Shah make the announcement, has yet to endorse the idea. He has maintained that the AIADMK would secure an absolute majority on its own. In an interview with *The Hindu*, he has argued that the people of Tamil Nadu are averse to coalition governments and that the AIADMK would meet their expectations for single-party rule. Just days ago, he had declared, "we are not naive" to share power. He has clarified that the remark was made in response to the DMK's "orchestrated campaign" that portrays the BJP as intent on "swallowing" up the AIADMK. He has also insisted that efforts to create discord between the BJP and the AIADMK would fail and that the alliance remains "cent per cent" intact.

Historically, Tamil Nadu, unlike the other southern States, has never had a coalition government. The DMK and the AIADMK have relied on allies for vote transfers and electoral victories but have avoided sharing power. In a State where regional parties have effectively curtailed the influence of national parties, voters remain wary of any perceived attempts by national parties to dominate regional parties. Against this backdrop, Mr. Palaniswami's reluctance to endorse power-sharing ahead of the polls is understandable – there is no guarantee that he will maintain this stance later. He has also sent mixed signals. On one occasion, he did not directly rule out parting ways with the BJP were a more electorally viable ally – such as actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam – to emerge. But he knows that he cannot dictate terms to the BJP, whose backing for his leadership cannot be taken for granted. Mr. Shah has subtly reflected this uncertainty by shifting his phrasing – from saying that the NDA would fight the election under Mr. Palaniswami's leadership to describing it as under the "AIADMK's leadership". Regardless of these evolving political dynamics, effective coordination between the cadres of both parties – essential for voter outreach – cannot be achieved when the leadership appears to be pulling in different directions. It is a recipe for confusion and chaos.

China, India and the conflict over Buddhism

Nirupama Rao

is a former Foreign Secretary and the author of 'The Fractured Himalaya; India, Tibet, China: 1949 to 1962'

As headlines trumpet Chinese naval expansion across the Indo-Pacific and India's strategic countermoves in this regard, there is a quieter, higher-altitude contest already reshaping Asia's future. The real geopolitical frontier between India and China lies not in the oceans but in the Himalayas. And at its heart is not oil, trade, or weapons but faith.

What looks like a spiritual tradition rooted in non-violence and mysticism has become, in the 21st century, a geopolitical chessboard. Monasteries that once served as centres of meditation and monastic education now sit at the frontlines of national power games. The reincarnation of lamas has become a matter not just of religion but also of sovereignty. And in regions such as Ladakh, Tawang, and even remote Bhutan, Buddhist culture is increasingly shaped not only by the sacred but also by strategy.

China's campaign has escalated

Both India and China understand that influence over Himalayan Buddhism is influence over identity, and in borderlands where lines on a map are fuzzy, identity is everything. For China, this means turning Buddhism into a tool of statecraft. Since the 1950s, Beijing has worked to dominate Tibetan religious life: it exiled or marginalised independent lamas, co-opted institutions, and, most crucially, claimed the sole right to approve reincarnations. In 2007, the Chinese government formally asserted that any "Living Buddha" must be sanctioned by the state. The message was clear: spiritual legitimacy flows from political authority.

This campaign has escalated in recent years. China now maintains a database of officially recognised reincarnate lamas, monitors monastery activities across Tibet, and has launched an ambitious Buddhist diplomacy campaign across the Himalayas. Sacred sites are being repurposed as instruments of soft power. Roads lead to shrines built with Beijing's help. Conference invitations are extended to Himalayan monks who return home with subtle shifts in loyalty.

Meanwhile, India has largely played catch-up. Hosting the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan exile government since 1959 gave India moral clout but little strategic advantage – until recently. Only in the last decade has New Delhi begun to engage seriously with Buddhism as a tool of influence, promoting its heritage as the Buddha's birthplace and funding regional pilgrimage circuits. Yet, these efforts remain fragmented when compared to China's centralised vision. As one scholar puts it, India practises Buddhist diplomacy: China practises Buddhist statecraft.

The Himalayas are the real frontier for another conflict between the Asian giants

Nowhere is the tension more visible than in the looming succession of the 14th Dalai Lama. The spiritual leader who turned 90 in July, has signalled that he intends to reincarnate outside Chinese territory – most likely in India. Beijing, predictably, has vowed to appoint its own Dalai Lama, using the centuries-old "Golden Urn" method.

The result will almost certainly be two rival Dalai Lamas: one recognised by the Tibetan exile community and much of the global Buddhist diaspora, and one endorsed by Beijing and installed in Lhasa under heavy guard.

This schism would not just split Tibetan Buddhism. It would force Buddhist communities across the Himalayan rim – in Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nepal, and Bhutan – to pick sides. In doing so, it could reshape the geopolitical allegiances of entire regions. If the spiritual figure they revere sits in India, loyalty may deepen toward New Delhi. If he is seated in Lhasa, with Chinese backing and resources, the gravitational pull could shift east.

Already, signs of this tug-of-war are visible. In Arunachal Pradesh, China asserts its claim to Tawang, birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama – not only through military posturing but also through spurious cultural logic. "It is Tibetan," Beijing summarily argues, "and therefore ours". In Nepal, Beijing has invested heavily in Buddhist infrastructure, especially around Lumbini, the Buddha's birthplace. And in Bhutan, China subtly courts monastic communities even as the kingdom maintains a tight control over religious affairs.

Working on internal disagreements

What is striking is how even internal Buddhist disagreements are now strategic openings. The Karma Kagyu school – one of Tibetan Buddhism's major lineages – has two rival Karmapas, each claiming rightful leadership. China and India have found ways to align with different sides of the split, transforming a spiritual dispute into a proxy conflict. Similarly, the contentious Dorje Shugden sect, ostracised by the Dalai Lama, has found unexpected empathy from Chinese authorities eager to weaken the exile hierarchy.

The battle for Buddhism is not about dogma – it is about who gets to define legitimacy, and in doing so, shape the loyalties of border populations. This is particularly relevant in places such as Ladakh, where the Buddhist identity coexists with a deep nationalist pride that is Indian. India's challenge is to ensure that spiritual allegiance does not drift toward foreign-controlled lineages, especially when those lineages sit across the Line of Actual Control.

It is tempting to dismiss all this as secondary – religious pageantry in the face of realpolitik. But that would be a mistake. In the Himalayas, where territory is often inaccessible and infrastructure scarce, soft power is hard power. A monastery that shifts allegiance is a strategic loss. A high lama that pledges loyalty across the border can change the balance of influence in a valley, or even a district.

And the stakes are only rising. After the Dalai Lama's time, the question of succession will become a global issue. Countries with significant Buddhist populations, from Mongolia to Sri Lanka, may be asked to take sides. The diplomatic fallout could be severe. For India, hosting the next Dalai Lama will be both an opportunity and a challenge: a chance to cement spiritual influence in the region, but also a trigger for intense Chinese pressure.

The stage

In this unfolding story, the Himalayas are not a backwater. They are the stage. The monasteries-in-the-clouds, the chanting monks, the adorned prayer wheels; they are not just relics of a bygone age, but instruments of power in a new one. This is where China and India are already competing – not with missiles, but with a spiritual succession crisis.

And that is why, even as the world watches for signs of confrontation in the oceanic waters of the Indo-Pacific, the real front may lie higher – among the clouds and the cliffs, in the realm where the spiritual becomes geopolitical. The next great struggle between Asia's two giants could well be fought not with submarines and aircraft carriers, but with *threngwas* (prayer beads in Tibetan) and reincarnations.

Realities behind the global experiment of 'remote work'

P. John J. Kennedy

is former Professor and Dean, Christ University, Bengaluru

The quiet revolution of remote work, once hailed as the future of labour, has become far more complicated than anyone imagined. Millions of workers across the world dream of the freedom and the flexibility that come with working from home. However, in reality, far fewer actually enjoy it. This gap between aspiration and practice reflects a dense web of cultural expectations, managerial hesitation, infrastructural challenges, and the hidden costs of working outside the traditional office.

Survey findings, gender issues

The "Global Survey of Working Arrangements", conducted by the Ifo Institute and Stanford University, covering over 16,000 college-educated workers across 40 countries between 2024 and 2025, lays bare this paradox. No matter where they live, workers express a clear wish for more remote days. How this plays out on the ground varies widely. In countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada, people average 1.6 remote workdays per week. In much of Asia, the figure is only 1.1 – a little more than half of what employees there say they ideally want. Africa and Latin America fall somewhere in between.

Why the lag in Asia? The reasons are unsurprising. In India, China, Japan, South Korea and elsewhere, physical presence in the office still signals loyalty, discipline and seriousness. The old culture of 'presenteeism' endures stubbornly. Compounding this are cramped living conditions, shared spaces and unreliable Internet, all of which make remote work unattractive or even unfeasible, for many urban dwellers.

But geography is only part of the story. Gender casts its own long shadow. In most countries, women, particularly mothers, tend to work from home more often than men – and desire it more strongly.

For them, remote work offers a partial answer to the long-standing struggle of balancing paid work with care-giving. Survey data show that mothers express the highest ideal number of remote days per week (2.66 days), closely followed by childless women (2.53). Fathers also want flexibility, but to a lesser extent. Curiously, it is only in Europe that men do report slightly more actual remote workdays than women.

Once hailed as the future of labour, 'Work from Home' has become far more complicated than imagined

These numbers reopen an old, unresolved question: is women's desire for remote work truly a sign of empowerment? Or is it merely a response to the continuing burden of unpaid care? For all the talk of gender equality, the division of household labour remains deeply unequal. For many mothers, the chance to work remotely may reflect not freedom of choice but hard necessity: the only practical way to manage two full-time roles (employee and caregiver) under the same roof.

The appetite for working from home points to cultural shifts among men, too. Many men without children say they prefer remote work not because of family obligations but because they value freedom: there is time for health, hobbies, creativity, or simply relief from the daily grind of office life. The COVID-19 pandemic years proved that productivity could survive, perhaps even thrive, without office cubicles. Having tasted this autonomy, many are reluctant to surrender it.

Still, the most striking revelation is the widening gap between what workers want and what they get. The global average for 'ideal' remote days is now 2.6 days per week. The reality? Just 1.27 days in 2024, a drop from 1.33 days the year before, and sharply down from 1.61 days in 2022.

The unease of employers, health concerns

What explains this retreat? Many employers remain uneasy. They worry about falling team spirit, lost oversight, and declining innovation. Some industries lack the tools or the systems for remote success. And the ingrained habits of office life continue to exert a powerful influence.

That is only half the picture. The risks of working from home, especially to health, are becoming clearer. Data from Statista Consumer Insights (2023) reveal that remote workers are more prone to physical ailments: backaches, headaches, eye strain and joint pains, more so than their factory- or office-bound counterparts. The mental toll is significant as well. Isolation, blurred boundaries and constant digital connection all exact a price.

Most homes, after all, are not designed for ergonomic safety or sustained mental focus. These hidden costs may explain why some companies are quietly pulling back on remote options. However, to abandon the model completely would overlook its real advantages: greater autonomy, better work-life balance, less commuting stress, and higher job satisfaction.

Possible alternatives

So, where does this leave workers, employers and policymakers? In need of imagination and honesty. Hybrid work, a carefully designed mix of home and office time offers the best path for most jobs. However, hybrid models alone will not suffice. Companies must invest in making home offices safer and more productive, support healthy routines and breaks, and create clear digital boundaries to prevent burnout. Governments, too, must catch up. Remote work demands fresh protections: universal broadband access, stipends for home-office upgrades, and enforceable health standards. These are especially critical in developing economies, where infrastructure lags behind.

Furthermore, beneath all this lies a deeper social reckoning. If women remain saddled with the bulk of care-giving even when working from home, can we really speak of progress toward gender equality? If men now seek remote work more for freedom than family, what does that say about changing male identities in the workplace? The global experiment in working from home is not just about technology or convenience. It is a mirror, reflecting the unresolved tensions between freedom and control, trust and suspicion, autonomy and loneliness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Abrupt exit

Jagdeep Dhankhar's abrupt resignation as the Vice-President of India was a bolt from the blue. Though Mr. Dhankhar is said to have cited 'health grounds', the alacrity with which the same was accepted by the President of India as well as the Prime Minister's cryptic post on X wishing him good health, make one one wonder whether the powers that be wanted Mr. Dhankhar out of the way. His relationship with the BJP's top leadership was quite frosty of late. Be that as it may, Mr. Dhankhar was often accused by the Opposition of having a pronounced pro-government stance in the conduct of proceedings in the Rajya Sabha. His tenure was also marked by his being the first Vice-President in history against whom the Opposition had felt constrained to move an impeachment motion. When he was the Governor of West Bengal too, Mr. Dhankhar, sadly on occasions, did transgress the constitutional boundaries set for this high office. His frequent criticism of the Supreme Court's landmark judgment about the concept of " basic structures" of the Constitution and his assertion about " the supremacy of Parliament" over the other organs of governance were also becoming confrontational by the day. One waits to see what happens next.

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

Mr. Dhankhar's abrupt resignation has provided munitions to Opposition leaders, who see the move as politically loaded. Though Mr. Dhankhar has cited his health as the reason for his departure, the disconnect between his public appearances and the stated reasons for his resignation has fuelled speculation that there might be other factors at play. As the nation awaits Mr. Dhankhar's successor, the ramifications of his hurried exit will no doubt resonate throughout the halls of power in India for some time to come.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Mr. Dhankhar's sudden resignation, though officially due to health reasons, points to deeper issues at play. His exit suggests possible political or institutional tensions. He might have felt sidelined or constrained and his move could reflect silent protest against the growing friction between the branches of power. His resignation raises important questions on whether democratic institutions are functioning the way they are meant to.

Dr. Vijaykumar H.K.,
Raichur, Karnataka

V.S. Achuthanandan

The passing of V.S. Achuthanandan has created a deep void in the political spectrum. When he was the Chief Minister of Kerala, he led campaigns to reclaim illegally occupied land, fought corruption, supported free-software in schools, and launched major development projects such as the Kochi container terminal and IT parks. The great political leader would be remembered for his staunch and ecumenical approach towards the underprivileged as well. He was a great leader revered by all, irrespective of different ideologies.

Sajna Hameed,
Hyderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Universities everywhere are in crisis

On July 21, a federal judge challenged the U.S. administration's reasons for slashing billions of dollars in federal funding to Harvard University. The funding threats and cuts reflect a larger worldwide trend of right-wing governments forcing higher education institutions with their ideological agendas. Across the world, universities, once imagined as havens of free inquiry, are now being transformed into sites of political control.

Amrita Nambiar

Assistant Professor of Law, Vinayaka Mission's Law School, Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation (DU)

Amrithnath Sreedevi Babu

Sessional Academic and PhD candidate, Macquarie Law School, Macquarie University, Australia

Weaponised budgets

This pressure is particularly evident in the U.S., where Ivy League universities have become the centre of a cultural conflict. Portraying these institutions as havens for "anti-Americanism", Mr. Trump tightened visas for overseas students and threatened funding cuts to colleges that defied his definition of 'free speech'. The U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 ruling ending affirmative action in college admissions gave right-wing activists even more confidence and spurred calls for broad changes in admissions rules. While Columbia University was pushed into adopting a strict definition of antisemitism, a measure critics say silences legitimate debate about Israel and Palestine, the 2024 congressional campaign forced Harvard's president, Claudine Gay, to resign. Major donors withdrew millions in funding from institutions that resisted these pressures, leaving faculty fearful that discussions on race, gender, or foreign policy might provoke similar reprisals.

The effects are felt globally. In Australia, using the nebulous concept of 'national interest', ministers have vetoed peer-reviewed humanities research proposals covering topics such as climate activism and Indigenous politics. Law faculties have faced criticism for deviating from 'black letter law' and incorporating decolonisation into their courses. Universities are also under pressure to pass anti-foreign interference audits to protect rich international student enrolment and engage in persuasive self-censorship on sensitive subjects, such as China, Palestine, and Australia's colonial past.

In India, populist leaders see public universities as elitist strongholds. Police visit campuses to quell dissent; budgets are cut; and vice-chancellors replaced. Jawaharlal Nehru University, once a hub of open debate, now frequently faces the label of 'anti-national'. In 2023, the University Grants Commission mandated compulsory courses in 'Indian knowledge systems'; this is seen as advancing Hindu nationalist narratives. The South Asian University, established by SAARC as an international institution, pressured a faculty member to leave after his PhD student cited Noam Chomsky's criticism of the Modi government.

From Budapest to Bahrain, the pattern is clear. Viktor Orbán forced Central European University out of Hungary. Turkey dismissed thousands of academics who supported a peace petition. Brazil and the Philippines drastically cut social sciences' funding, silencing studies on inequality. Gulf states impose tight restrictions on conversations about religion, gender, and labour rights. Independent research is now seen across continents as a threat to national security.

Along with these direct attacks is a quieter but equally destructive force: the neoliberal makeover of higher education. Rankings, patent creation, and the pursuit of student 'employability' are transforming universities into corporate entities. People discount feminist studies, sociology, history and other subjects which explore power dynamics as unnecessary extravagances. Students become paying customers, faculty members turn into disposable service providers, and trustees prioritise brand management above intellectual exploration. The far right exploits this market-driven logic, portraying universities as taxpayer-funded breeding grounds for sedition, while simultaneously cutting public funding essential for maintaining intellectual diversity.

Across the world, universities, once imagined as havens of free inquiry, are now being transformed into sites of political control

Defending the commons

According to the Academic Freedom Index, produced by V-Dem and partner organisations, academic freedom declined in 34 countries between 2014 and 2024, not only in autocracies but in democracies as well. Indicators measuring institutional autonomy, freedom of research, and campus integrity dropped to their lowest levels since the early 1980s. Every erosion of academic freedom limits society's ability to tackle pressing global challenges such as climate change, the impacts of AI, and democratic deterioration.

Despite these challenges, hope remains. Networks of academics, students, and civil society groups around the world are resisting ideological pressure. Faculty groups and student coalitions in the U.S. actively promote inclusive education, which forces some colleges to rethink too rigid definitions of antisemitism. Legal collectives and independent academic platforms still guard areas for critical inquiry in India.

However, survival alone is insufficient. Universities must recover their public agenda. Governing boards should shield hiring, promotions, and funding decisions from political interference. Donors must support uncomfortable inquiry rather than dictate it. Alumni can fund independent academic chairs or legal defence efforts. Faculty members must engage in university governance instead of leaving it to bureaucrats, while students should remember that campuses are democratic commons, not merely credential factories. If fear, profit motives, or majoritarian arrogance dictate what can be taught or expressed, we risk inheriting not just weakened universities but diminished democracies.

Reforms or regression?

Naidu will have to balance industrial development with labour rights

STATE OF PLAY

Hareesh P.
hareesh.p@thehindu.co.in

The Andhra Pradesh government's decision to amend labour laws is running into rough weather.

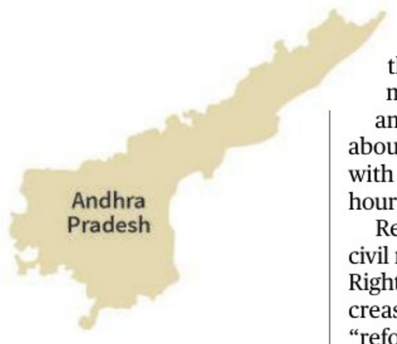
In a meeting of the Council of Ministers on June 4, the Labour, Factories, Boilers and Insurance Medical Services Department proposed amendments to certain provisions of The Factories Act, 1948, and The Andhra Pradesh Shops and Establishments Act, 1988.

The amendments, approved by the Cabinet, enable factories to increase the maximum number of work hours a day from nine to 10; the maximum continuous work period before a mandatory rest break from five hours to six; and the overtime cap from 75 hours to 144 per quarter.

Maintaining that it is simply following "global practices", the government said that the amendments are part of its 'Ease of Doing Business' policy and will help attract investments. It also believes that those who are physically fit will be able to work longer hours and earn more.

The Left parties and labour unions hold that these changes, which they term "anti-worker policies", infringe on workers' rights. Civil rights bodies have also decried the amendments and have demanded that they be withdrawn unconditionally.

The focus of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in the State is industrial development. The State government wants to attract more industries to backward areas such as Rayalaseema and create a large number of employment opportunities. If the NDA succeeds in pulling off this feat, it would translate into a major poll plank for the alliance in the next elections.



The government claims to have attracted several major industries to set up shop over the past year. It has also allocated land to those showing a keen interest in investing in the State. The government wants to tap the potential in investment in the defence, textiles, apparels, renewable energy, medical devices, and food processing sectors.

The government also wants to lift restrictions on women working between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m., to increase the number of women workers in the formal sector. It argues that providing safeguards such as CCTV cameras, proper lighting at the workplace, and transport facilities will help it achieve this goal. It says that this will also expand job opportunities for women as they will not only get work in small-scale units, but also in factories and the corporate sector.

Proposals to amend labour laws have always been opposed by employees' unions and the working class across the world, and Andhra Pradesh is no exception. The Left-backed labour unions have announced protests. Even some government departments, including the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation, have opposed the move.

The unions say that the amendments were brought about due to pressure from the Centre. They also demand to know why the amendments do not talk about a hike in wages in line with the increase in work hours.

Representing the voice of civil rights groups, the Human Rights Forum said that the increase in work hours is not a "reform" but a "regressive move" and that it shows how the government treats with contempt decades of labour struggles that have advocated for – and achieved – a humane and sustainable work environment. The Forum added that the amendments amounted to not just exploitation in terms of wages, but also paved the way for normalising overwork. This, it said, takes away the workers' right to rest and strips away dignity from labour.

Labour unions and civil rights groups have said that the amendments are "an irresponsible and deliberate assault on labour rights and dignity" and demanded that they be withdrawn immediately.

Having promised industries on the one hand and facing opposition from workers on the other, the State government faces a tough balancing act. Earlier too, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's style of functioning was criticised by government employees and even adversely affected the poll prospects of the Telugu Desam Party. When he returned to power in 2024, Mr. Naidu departed from his earlier style of functioning and made it clear that he wanted to keep employees happy. But with these amendments, he is likely to be in the firing line once again. Implementing the amendments by prevailing upon industries to pay higher wages might work in his favour.

Damned if they do, or don't: The AIADMK's impossible choice

The party's alliance with the BJP offers possible short-term gains but comes with the risk of losing identity and voter base

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani

The AIADMK is in a classic Catch-22 situation in Tamil Nadu: the party is damned if it allies with the BJP, and damned if it does not.

On the one hand, to consolidate the anti-DMK votes and remain electorally competitive, the AIADMK feels compelled to ally with the BJP. This pragmatic move will prevent a fatal split in the Opposition vote that would almost certainly benefit the ruling DMK-led coalition. On the other, aligning with the BJP to strengthen its electoral position simultaneously weakens the AIADMK'S core identity. This alienates a crucial segment of its traditional voter base, as long-time AIADMK supporters, particularly from minority communities as well as Dravidian adherents, view the BJP's Hindutva ideology as antithetical to the party's foundational principles.

Meanwhile, the alliance, meant to bolster the AIADMK, provides the BJP with the platform and legitimacy it needs to grow in Tamil Nadu. This growth often comes from poaching voters directly from the AIADMK itself. Specifically, the BJP attracts those who have looser ties with the AIADMK's ideological past but have aligned with the party primarily because they oppose the DMK.

And if the AIADMK were to break the alliance to protect its ideological core and win back disaffected voters, it would likely face a multi-cornered contest. This would splinter the anti-DMK vote, making a DMK victory mathematically much easier.

The path that the AIADMK has chosen in an attempt to solve its short-term electoral problem – namely, allying with the BJP – deepens its long-term existential crisis of losing its unique identity and voter base. The path to electoral survival seemingly requires an act of political self-harm. This is the perfect definition of a Catch-22.

The numbers bear this out. While the votes shares of the AIADMK significantly dropped from 2011 to 2021, the party retained a strong core of close to 40% of votes in the seats it contested in 2021. This dropped dramatically to 23.5% in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, when the AIADMK opted to stay out of the BJP-led alliance.

In an earlier Data Point titled 'AIADMK and BJP split: Diminishing electoral returns...' in October 2023, we had advanced the reasons for the regional party's decision to move away from the BJP because a significant core of its voters were uncomfortable with the alliance. Meanwhile, the BJP's performance in urban local body elections held closer to that time showed that the party improved its vote share largely at the expense of the AIADMK.

The 2024 parliamentary elections – viewed with the caveat that these were held to decide equations in New Delhi rather than in Chennai – also showed that the BJP was capable of gaining ground at the expense of the AIADMK.

Meanwhile, the DMK-led alliance – an ideologically coherent front bound by its opposition to the BJP – retained its vote share between 2021 and 2024, enhanced by around 2% points following the support of Kamal Haasan's party.

Data in **Tables 2A, B, and C,** however, complicates the picture. While the AIADMK in its alliance with the BJP won close to 75 Assembly seats in 2021, the split between the two parties resulted in the DMK leading in 221 Assembly segments in the 2024 parliamentary elections. This left the AIADMK-led alliance and the BJP-led alliance to lead in just 10 and 3 segments, respectively.

Hypothetically, if the alliance between the AIADMK, the BJP, and their respective partners had remained intact, they would have led in 84 segments. This would have placed the alliance's hypothetical 41% vote share just 6 points behind the ruling coalition's 47%, a gap that a 3-point swing could potentially bridge.

A region-wise break-up (Table 3B) gives a more granular picture. In the West, or the Kongu belt from where AIADMK chief Edappadi K. Palaniswami hails, the combined alliance had won 26 out of 42 seats in 2021. In the North-Central region, where the PMK is a strong party, they won 24 of the 55 seats. These numbers were reduced to just 2 (for AIADMK+) and 7 (four for AIADMK+ and three for BJP+) segments, respectively, in the 2024 elections.

If these parties had maintained their 2021 alliance, they would have led in 22 segments in the West (as opposed to 20 for the DMK-led coalition) and 29 in the North-Central region (against 26 for the DMK+). The combined coalition would have also led the DMK+ 15-14 in the South. This explains why AIADMK leaders from the West and some in the South have given statements favouring an alliance with the BJP, while the PMK president stated his preference for an alliance with the AIADMK in 2024.

The internecine strife within the PMK and the DMDK's newfound ambivalence are challenges for the AIADMK-BJP coalition too.

A further complication for the 2026 Assembly elections is the entry of actor Vijay's TVK. An alliance with the TVK might seem a logical way for Mr. Palaniswami to consolidate anti-DMK votes, but two factors complicate this. First, the strength of the TVK's support base remains purely speculative. Second, the AIADMK's influential western leaders continue to push for closer ties with the BJP. Caught between these pressures, the beleaguered leader appears to have chosen to return to the BJP coalition even though it will likely hurt his party's identity in the long run.

Dravidian dilemma

Data were sourced from the Election Commission of India.
AIADMK+: AIADMK-led alliance, BJP+: BJP-led alliance, DMK+: DMK-led alliance

Table 1A: Assembly elections

	Vote share (CVS: Contested vote share in brackets)		
	2011	2016	2021
AIADMK	38.4 (53.9)	40.9 (40.9)	33.3 (40.5)
AIADMK+	51.9	40.9	39.7
DMK	22.4 (42.1)	31.4 (41.1)	33.7 (46.5)
DMK+	39.5	39.4	45.4
Others	8.6	19.7	14.9

Table 2A (Wins, Leads)

Seats/Segments	2019	2021
DMK+	218	159
AIADMK+BJP+	16	75

Table 2B

	2024
DMK+	221
AIADMK+	10
BJP+	3

Table 2C

	2024
DMK+	150
AIADMK +BJP+	84

Table 1B
Parliamentary elections; Vote share (CVS)

	2014	2019	2024
AIADMK	44.9 (44.9)	18.7 (33.6)	20.7 (23.5)
AIADMK+	44.9	30.7	23.0
DMK	23.9 (27.6)	33.2 (55.1)	27.2 (47.8)
DMK+	27.2	53.3	47.4
Others	27.9	16.0	29.6

Table 3A: Region-wise break-up

Region	Actual scenario: Vote share of AIADMK+ in 2021	Actual scenario: Vote share of DMK+ in 2021	Actual scenario: Vote share of AIADMK+ in 2024	Actual scenario: Vote share of BJP+ in 2024	Hypothetical scenario: Vote share of AIADMK+BJP+ in 2024	Hypothetical scenario: Vote share of DMK+ in 2024
Upper North	35.1	49.6	17.9%	20.2%	38.0%	51.2%
North Central	43.6	44.9	29.9%	16.4%	46.3%	44.3%
Kaveri Delta	36.9	48.4	24.4%	13.1%	37.5%	48.8%
West	45.2	41.7	25.9%	17.4%	43.3%	47.3%
South	36.4	41.8	20.5%	23.0%	43.4%	43.4%
Down South	36.9	43.5	11.4%	26.2%	37.6%	50.2%

Table 3B

Region	Actual scenario: Seats of AIADMK + in 2021	Actual scenario: Seats of DMK+ in 2021	Actual scenario: Segments led by AIADMK+ in 2024	Actual scenario: Segments led by BJP+ in 2024	Actual scenario: Segments led by DMK+ in 2024	Hypothetical scenario: Segments led by AIADMK+ BJP+ in 2024	Hypothetical scenario: Segments led by DMK+ in 2024
Upper North	6	39	0	0	45	8	37
North Central	24	31	4	3	48	29	26
Kaveri Delta	4	37	2	0	39	6	35
West	26	16	2	0	40	22	20
South	8	21	2	0	27	15	14
Down South	7	15	0	0	22	4	18
Total	**75**	**159**	**10**	**3**	**221**	**84**	**150**

Upper North-seats from Chennai, Krishnagiri, Vellore etc; North Central - Dharmapuri, Villupuram etc; Kaveri Delta - Tiruchirapalli, Thanjavur etc; West - Tiruppur, Coimbatore etc; South - Madurai, Ramanathapuram etc; Down South - Thoothukudi, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli etc

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 23, 1975

Student evaluation of teachers: Divergent views

New Delhi, July 22: University Vice-Chancellors, collage principals and eminent educationists in the country have expressed divergent views on a suggestion that students in autonomous colleges should evaluate the work of their teachers.

Four workshops organised by the University Grants Commission had recommended that "the process of assessment of students should be continuous and they in turn may also evaluate the efficiency of teachers in the teaching-testing-learning processes."

Several of the academicians, whose views were sought by UNI, reacted favourably to the recommendation. Some of them were enthusiastic about it, but invariably all of them had certain reservations and warned that if the proposed innovation was misused, it could prove disastrous.

Calicut University's acting Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Sukumar Azhikode, said: "I believe that teacher assessment by the student is neither a fanciful nor an ideal concept, but that one that is highly realistic. In every classroom this goes on while a teacher is engaged in teaching. Any teacher would strive to derive the admiration, affection and regard of the student, which is the result of an informal assessment of the teacher by the student. Most of the teachers are subtly inspired by it." But, he warned that if this assessment is elevated into an administrative weapon by which the merit of a teacher is solely or partly adjudged, it may prove very mischievous. Students are easily swayed by political and social pressures and assessment by such a class may lead to victimisation of teachers.

Dr. K. Madhavankutty, Principal, Trivandrum Medical College, welcomed the proposal and suggested that assessments should be made not by individual students but by a group.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 23, 1925

Anglo-Indian

London, July 22: Lord Reading had an hour's informal interview with the Anglo-Indian Deputation headed by Lt. Col. Gidney, who made representations with regard to the disabilities and hardships of the domiciled community in India and was given a patient and sympathetic hearing.

From Page One

Dhankhar's exit notified, but questions remain

By the time Mr. Dhankhar accepted the Opposition's notice, a joint delegation of senior leaders from both the ruling alliance and the Opposition had already submitted a similar motion to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Further, Mr. Dhankhar not only accepted the notice but also informed the Rajya Sabha that if similar notices were presented in both Houses, a joint committee would be constituted to examine the allegations against Justice Varma. During this period, government managers were reportedly mobilising signatures from NDA MPs in the Rajya Sabha in support of the motion, to preserve its bipartisan character.

While this may have acted as the immediate trigger, sources suggest there were other underlying differences between Mr. Dhankhar and the government. Sources say Mr. Dhankar and the government have not been in sync for some time, with the former not feeling supported enough by the Centre when an Opposition-sponsored impeachment motion was moved against him last December, and the government objecting to his frequent statements against the judiciary.

On Tuesday, the Opposition raised questions over the circumstances of Mr. Dhankhar's departure. Congress chief whip Jairam Ramesh, in a detailed post on X, described events on Mr. Dhankhar's final day in office. He pointed to the absence of Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha J.P. Nadda and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju from a meeting of the Rajya Sabha's Business Advisory Committee (BAC), which Mr. Dhankhar reportedly took umbrage at.

Mr. Dhankhar had subsequently rescheduled the meeting to 1 p.m. on Tuesday. "So something very serious happened yesterday between 1 PM and 4:30 PM to account for the deliberate absence of Shri Nadda and Shri Rijiju from the second BAC yesterday," Mr. Ramesh wrote.

Mr. Nadda, however, denied any procedural lapse, saying the Vice-President's office had been informed in advance.

Mr. Ramesh maintained that there were "deeper reasons" for the resignation.

SC issues notice on powers of President

"We are keeping all the questions [in the Presidential Reference] open," Chief Justice Gavai told the assembled lawyers.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani agreed to assist the Bench, while Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta appeared for the Centre. Senior advocates Kapil Sibal, A.M. Singhvi, Rakesh Dwivedi, and Gopal Subramanium also appeared.

The Presidential Reference, made under Article 143 of the Constitution, broadly seeks clarity on whether judicial powers extend to imposing timelines on the President and Governors under Articles 200 and 201.

These Articles deal with the process by which Governors grant or withhold assent to Bills passed by State Legislatures, and refer them to the President.

"In the absence of any constitutionally prescribed time limit or manner of exercise of powers by a Governor, can time limits be imposed and manner of exercise of powers be prescribed through judicial orders? Can judicial orders impose timelines and manner of exercise of powers by the President under Article 201?" the Reference asks.

The April 8 judgment, delivered by a Division Bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, dealt with the delay by the Tamil Nadu Governor in acting on 10 re-passed Bills. The court had held the Governor's actions illegal and invoked Article 142 to deem that all 10 Bills had received assent.

The Reference now seeks clarity on the scope of Article 142. "Can the Constitutional powers of the President/Governors be substituted by a judicial order exercising Article 142? Is Article 142 limited to matters of procedural law or does it extend to issuing directions 'contrary to or inconsistent with existing substantive or procedural provisions of the Constitution'?" it asks.

SC asks Kanwar route eateries to display info

"If a hotel, where non-vegetarian food was served, is converted to pure vegetarian only for the Kanwariya Yatra for better business, the consumers should know... there must be some way to indicate that though now vegetarian food is served, the hotel had actually served non-vegetarian earlier," Justice Sundresh observed.

"We must give that flexibility to the consumer," the judge remarked.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi said it was true India was one of the most diverse spots on the planet. "My choice may annoy you or your choice may annoy me. But the exercise of choice must not mean blanket exclusion... You [the States] are trying to ostracise the establishments owned by a minority community which comply with all your requirements," Mr. Singhvi submitted.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi stressed the court the need for a balance of rights, saying the consumers' choice cannot stump everything. "After all, one has a right to run a business too. As of today, serving non-vegetarian food is not banned in the country," he contended.

Rear section of Air India plane catches fire in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The rear section of an Air India Airbus A321 aircraft caught fire on Tuesday at the Delhi airport as passengers were deplaning after arriving from Hong Kong, the airline said.

The aircraft's auxiliary power unit located in the tail section caught fire after the aircraft landed and parked at the gate, according to a statement from Air India. Passengers and crew were able to disembark but the aircraft sustained "some damage", according to the airline. The aircraft has been grounded for further investigations.

"The incident occurred while passengers had begun disembarking, and the APU was automatically shut down as per system design," an airline spokesperson said.

The auxiliary power unit (APU) is a small gas turbine engine typically located at the rear of an aircraft's fuselage. It serves as an independent power source for functions other than propulsion. It provides supplementary power while the aircraft is on the ground and aids with functions such as air conditioning during flight.

After glorious career, MiG-21 fighter jets to retire in September

The Air Force will hold a ceremonial send-off at the Chandigarh airbase; there are plans to replace them with indigenously developed Tejas Mk1A

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

After protecting the skies for more than six decades, the MiG-21 Bison fighter jets of the Indian Air Force are set to retire in September.

Confirming the development, a senior defence official said the Air Force will hold a ceremonial send-off at the Chandigarh airbase in September.

The ceremony will be attended by veteran pilots who have flown the Russian-origin jets.

According to sources, there are plans to replace the MiG-21 jets with the indigenously developed Tejas Mk1A fighter aircraft.

First purchased in 1963, the MiG-21 is a single-engine supersonic jet fighter and interceptor aircraft. They formed the backbone of the Air Force till the mid-2000s, when the Su-30MKIs were inducted. They have played key roles in the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan, the Kargil War in 1999, the Balakot air strikes in 2019, and the most-recent Operation Sindoor. During the Balakot air strikes, then Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman had used his MiG-21 aircraft to shoot down a Pakistani F-16 fighter. The MiG was subsequently shot down too.

Off the skies: First procured in 1963, the MiG-21 is a single-engine supersonic jet fighter and interceptor aircraft. PTI

700 aircraft

Over the years, India procured more than 700 MiG-21 aircraft of different variants. Many were domestically built by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. The Air Force currently has two MiG squadrons, or 36 aircraft, that are operated by the 23 Squadron, known as the Panthers, and the No. 3 Squadron, known as the Cobras. The squadrons are stationed at the Nal airbase in Rajasthan.

The MiG-21 aircraft have also been involved in several accidents, leading to the deaths of 170 pilots and 40 civilians. They were once termed "Flying Coffin".

After the current squadrons of MiG-21 are phased out, the combat strength of the Air Force will drop to 29 squadrons.

Boost to capabilities: The Apache helicopters from the United States arriving at the Hindon airbase on Tuesday. X/@ADGPI

Army gets first batch of advanced Apache helicopters from U.S.

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

In a significant fillip to modernisation of military aviation capabilities, the Indian Army on Tuesday received the first batch of three Apache AH-64E helicopters from the U.S. at the Hindon airbase.

The induction of these advanced combat helicopters will bolster the Army's operational capabilities along the Western Border and high-altitude areas. It will be deployed in Jodhpur with the Army Aviation Corps. Before that, the helicopters will undergo a Joint Receipt Inspection, as per protocol.

"Apache for Indian Army. Milestone moment for Indian Army as the first batch of Apache helicopters for Army Aviation arrive today in India. These state-of-the-art platforms will bolster the operational capabilities of the Indian Army significantly," the Additional Directorate General of Public Information, under the Ministry of Defence, posted on X.

'Proud moment'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in a post on X, said the arrival of the helicopters was a significant step towards strengthening India's defence capabilities. "These advanced helicopters will enhance the Army Aviation wing's operational effectiveness, especially in challenging terrains. A proud moment reflecting our commitment to modernising the Armed Forces," he said.

Cong. appeal against income tax demand on ₹199 cr. rejected

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The party filed its returns on February 2, 2019, which, the I-T Department said, was past deadline

The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal on Tuesday rejected the Congress's appeal against a tax demand on an income of ₹199.15 crore, saying that the party filed its returns past the deadline for getting exemptions due to political parties and that it also violated cash donation limits.

According to its order, the party filed its income tax returns for the financial year 2017-18 on February 2, 2019. As per the Income Tax Act, 1961, political parties are allowed a later deadline for filing their returns. For 2017-18, the deadline was December 31, 2018. In its filing, the Congress had declared nil income for 2017-18 after claiming an exemption of ₹199.15 crore under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961. However, the ITAT ruled that since the party filed for the returns late, it was not eligible for this exemption.

Overall, the party declared total receipts of ₹199.15 crore against expenses of ₹197.43 crore, thereby showing a surplus of ₹1.71 crore. However, the I-T Department's assessment order on July 6, 2021, denied exemption, making the full receipt amount taxable. The assessing officer also found that the Congress had received ₹14.49 lakh as cash donations, which exceeded the limit of ₹2,000 per individual, as any amount above must be received through formal banking channels.

Manipur families displaced by unrest get ready to return home under security cover

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Several Meitei families displaced by ethnic violence are gearing up to return to their homes on the periphery of Manipur's Imphal Valley under security cover.

Officials in the State's Imphal West district said a few people had begun cleaning the houses they had abandoned after the conflict between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities broke out on May 3, 2023, leaving more than 250 dead over two years.

In some cases, people began repairing their houses, which were damaged or destroyed during the peak of the conflict.

The district authorities and security forces enabled the displaced people from a village of 21 households in New Keithelmanbi to clean and repair their houses.

Internally displaced Meitei people standing in a queue to receive food at a relief camp in Imphal in April 2024. GETTY IMAGES

'Rations will continue'

"The displaced people are being resettled in their original homes in coordination with the Deputy Commissioners of the adjoining districts. After returning home, they will continue to receive ration and benefits under the State livelihood mission," Imphal West's Deputy Commissioner Mayanglambam Rajkumar said.

On July 4, the State's former Chief Secretary, Prashant Kumar Singh, said the first of a three-phase resettlement plan for the internally displaced people was under way. He claimed that about 5,000 of some 62,000 people displaced had returned to their villages.

Three judicial officers made judges in Delhi High Court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Tuesday notified the appointment of three judicial officers as judges of the Delhi High Court.

The announcement for the appointment of Vinod Kumar, Shail Jain and Madhu Jain as High Court judges was made by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal.

On Monday, the Delhi High Court got six new judges, namely Justice V. Kameswar Rao, Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre, Justice Vivek Chaudhary, Justice Anil Kshertarpal, Justice Arun Monga and Justice Om Prakash Shukla.

With nine new appointments in last two days, the strength of judges in the court now reaches 43. The sanctioned strength of judges in the Delhi High Court is 60.

Ahead of PM's visit, India highlights presence of Khalistanis in the U.K.

Kallol Bhattacherjee
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Bilateral trade is a major agenda item as Prime Minister Narendra Modi heads to the United Kingdom on Wednesday but the India-U.K. talks will also feature discussions on pro-Khalistan elements in the U.K., and India's policy on bringing U.K.-based fugitives to justice.

The presence of Khalistani activists in the U.K. and elsewhere undermines "social cohesion", Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said in a briefing on the PM's visit on Tuesday.

The visit is also likely to lead to the unveiling of the India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement that Mr. Modi and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer had announced on May 6.

> We have been in touch with each other. We will try to explain to them how others like Tahawwur Rana has been extradited... We can do it
>
> **VIKRAM MISRI**
> Foreign Secretary

"We are working on legal scrubbing and other last-minute work that needs to be done... The U.K. is the sixth-largest investor in India, with cumulative investment of $36 billion. Interestingly, India is also a major investor in the U.K., with nearly $20 billion in cumulative FDI," Mr. Misri said, indicating that last-minute discussions are taking place regarding the FTA.

India will also take up the presence of Khalistan elements who have repeatedly targeted the Indian High Commissioner in London in the recent past and campaigned for a free Khalistan.

This is also among the security concerns being taken into consideration during the Prime Minister's visit, resulting in several details, including meeting venues, being kept under wraps.

In March, while on a visit to the U.K., External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was accosted by a protester who attempted to tear up the Indian flag. The External Affairs Ministry strongly condemned the incident and asked the U.K. to "fully live upto its diplomatic obligations".

The Prime Minister's visit will also provide India with an opportunity to discuss the presence of fugitives like Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi on British soil. Mr. Misri said that India is confident of bringing these wanted individuals to justice.

"We have been in touch with each other. We will try to explain to them how others like Tahawwur Rana has been extradited... We can do it," Mr. Misri said.

No issue found in fuel switch system, says AI

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Private carrier Air India on Tuesday said it has completed "precautionary" inspection of the locking mechanism of the fuel control switch (FCS) on its Boeing 787 and 737 aircraft fleet and no issues were found.

Aviation safety regulator DGCA last week directed airlines to inspect the fuel switch locking system in the two Boeing models by July 21 after the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, investigating the Air India aircraft crash in Ahmedabad on June 12, said in its preliminary report that fuel switches were cut off before the crash.

The crash killed 241 of the 242 passengers onboard and another 19 on the ground.

APPEAL

I am **Savitha**, 36 years old suffering from RHD-Severe MS Mild PAH advised to undergo Mitral Valve Replacement (Heart Surgery) at Public Health Centre, Chennai. The total expenditure is Rs. 2,00,000/-. I am from a very poor family and not in a position to meet the cost of the treatment. Please help me to undergo the surgery and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027.**

E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.

Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

Savitha

Poll panel has to hold election of Vice-President immediately

The position cannot be left vacant, nor does the Constitution provide any method of succession apart from a fresh election; till the new Vice-President assumes office, Deputy Chairman will head RS proceedings; V-P is elected by an electoral college

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

With the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar as Vice-President and the subsequent Gazette notification issued by the government, the Election Commission will have to announce the election to fill the position with immediate effect as the constitutional post cannot be left vacant.

Mr. Dhankhar, 74, resigned on Monday citing health reasons, creating a rare mid-term vacancy in the Vice-President's office.

The Vice-President, who is the Rajya Sabha Chairman, holds office for five years. However, notwithstanding the expiration of his term, he will continue to remain in office until his successor takes charge.

In the case of death, removal or resignation of the Vice-President, the Constitution does not provide any method of succession apart from a fresh election. In such an event, the Deputy Chairman can head the Rajya Sabha proceedings.

"Thus, in case of a resignation, the Election Commission has to call for elections immediately as the position cannot be left vacant," said former Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha and constitutional law expert P.D.T. Achary.

Next steps: The Vice-President is elected by an electoral college that comprises members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, both elected and nominated. ANI

The Vice-President is elected by an electoral college that comprises members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, both elected and nominated.

Members of the electoral college can vote according to their choice and are not bound by any party whip.

According to the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974, the nomination paper has to be subscribed by at least 20 electors as proposers and at least 20 electors as seconders.

The paper has to be presented to the Returning Officer between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on any day appointed for the purpose, either by the candidate or by any of the proposers or seconders.

The security deposit for the election is ₹15,000.

Returning Officer's role

By convention, the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha is appointed the Returning Officer, by rotation.

Two other senior officers of the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha Secretariats are appointed the Assistant Returning Officers.

Members of electoral college can vote according to their choice and are not bound by any whip

Under Article 66 (1) of the Constitution, the election of the Vice-President shall be held "in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote and the voting at such an election shall be by secret ballot".

Unlike the Presidential election, where the value of votes cast by the Members of Parliament and of the various State Legislative Assemblies is different, every vote cast in the Vice-Presidential election has the same value that is one.

The election being held "in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote" denotes that every elector has as many preferences as candidate contesting the elections. The winning candidate has to secure the required quota of votes to be declared elected, that is 50% of the valid votes cast plus 1.

Numbers stacked in NDA's favour in polls for Vice-President

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition is likely to force a contest as it had done in 2017 and 2022 polls

The Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies have at least 150 members more than the Opposition in the electoral college for the Vice-Presidential polls.

The Opposition though has not taken a formal call, but is still likely to force a contest as it had done in the 2017 and 2022 election.

The electoral college exclusively comprises Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members. The BJP has 240 members in the Lok Sabha and 99 in the Rajya Sabha. Along with its allies in both Houses of Parliament, the government will have more than 457 members. The Congress, which is the largest Opposition party in both Houses of Parliament, has 99 members in the Lok Sabha and 27 in the Rajya Sabha.

The INDIA bloc parties and those aligned with the bloc together have a little over 300 members in both the Houses.

The government recently filled the four nominated seats in the Rajya Sabha, which were vacant for a long time.

In the Rajya Sabha, at least 18 members belonging to the Biju Janata Dal, the YSR Congress Party and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi are not aligned to the ruling and the Opposition blocs. They more often than not in the past have backed the government in case of contested legislation.

Narrow contest

This will be the narrowest contest between the two sides.

In 2017, in the first Vice-Presidential elections of the Narendra Modi government, the contest was between then Cabinet Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu and Opposition nominee Gopal Krishna Gandhi. Mr. Naidu won the contest by a margin of 272 votes.

In 2022, when Mr. Dhankhar faced Opposition nominee Margret Alva, he won the contest by a margin of 346 votes.

The Trinamool Congress had abstained during the 2022 polls, with the party claiming that it was not consulted by the Congress before announcing Ms. Alva's nomination. The party had 35 MPs in Parliament.

Bihar BJP leaders bat for Nitish Kumar as Dhankhar's successor

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

In the wake of Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation, Bihar BJP leaders on Tuesday pushed the name of Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar for the post of Vice-President.

The Janata Dal (United) is part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ruling the State.

BJP MLA Haribhushan Thakur Bachaul and BJP Minister Neeraj Kumar Singh Bablu said it would be a matter of pride for Bihar if Mr. Kumar became the Vice-President of the country.

'Long record'

The BJP MLAs who came to attend the ongoing monsoon session of the Bihar Assembly said Mr. Kumar was a suitable and worthy candidate for the post.

"Though it is not in my hands, if Nitish*ji* becomes the Vice-President, it would be a matter of great pride for Bihar. He has a long administrative record," Mr. Thakur told presspersons on the Assembly premises.

Mr. Bablu said, "What is the problem if he becomes the Vice-President? It would be really good."

Yet to receive over 21 lakh enumeration forms, says EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Tuesday said that enumeration forms of 21.36 lakh electors are yet to be received in the ongoing special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Out of a total of 7,89,69,844 electors in the State, forms have been received from 7,16,04,102 voters, while 52,30,126 electors were not found at their registered addresses. As per EC's statement, 18,66,869 individuals are likely deceased, 7,50,742 are enrolled at multiple locations, 26,01,031 are believed to have permanently shifted, and 11,484 could not be traced. The EC said that efforts have been intensified to ensure inclusion of all eligible voters in the draft electoral roll.

In collecting signatures for removal of judge, Cong. started off early to deny govt. 'sole credit'

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Opposition's decision to move the motion to remove Justice Yashwant Varma in the Rajya Sabha was initiated at the Congress parliamentary strategy meeting on July 15, where the lead Opposition party took a call that the government should not be allowed exclusive ownership of the motion, aimed at uncovering the alleged corruption in the judiciary.

Wads of half-burnt currency notes were found at the official residence of Justice Varma in Delhi when a fire broke out there on March 14.

At the meeting, according to those aware of the discussion, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rajya Sabha member P. Chidambaram, the party's chief whip in the Rajya Sabha, Jairam Ramesh, and others felt the Rajya Sabha should not stand as a mute spectator to the process. The government had reached out to all sides for a bipartisan motion to be moved in the Lok Sabha.

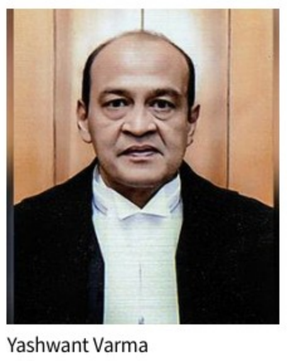
63 signatures

The Congress then started the process of collecting signatures from the other Opposition parties.

"This process had been going on since Thursday last week," a senior Congress leader said.

Barring the Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party MPs, who were not available for various reasons, other Opposition leaders signed the motion. A total of 63 signatures were collected.

The motion was submitted around 2 p.m. to Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's office, who, around 4 p.m., informed the House about it. He went on to describe the procedure asking the Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha, P.C. Mody, to enquire with the Lok Sabha about submission of a similar motion and proceed accordingly.



Yashwant Varma

In cases where the motion is submitted on the same day in the two Houses, a joint statutory committee is constituted to investigate the matter. A notice for the removal of a judge has to be signed by no fewer than 100 members in the Lok Sabha and 50 in the Rajya Sabha.

Three reasons cited

The motion sought Justice Verma's removal on three grounds – "financial misconduct and lack of transparency", "unnatural conduct and concealment" and "breach of public trust and probity", quoting from the Supreme Court's internal committee's report that investigated the incident.

It said that the Supreme Court report proved misbehaviour on part of Justice Varma as defined by Article 124 (4) of the Constitution and thus recommended his removal and further investigations by a statutory committee.

At 4.30 p.m., the Business Advisory Committee convened minutes after the Chairman's announcement on the floor of the House.

Leader of the House J.P. Nadda and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju were missing.

When Mr. Dhankhar enquired about their absence, Union Minister L. Murugan reportedly said they had been called for an urgent meeting.

Mr. Dhankhar had articulated both in public and private that the cash recovery at Justice Varma's residence required a thorough probe on where and how the money came from. He was also, till his last day in office on Monday, authenticating the signatures on a motion moved by Opposition in December last year against the Allahabad High Court Judge Justice Shekhar Yadav for allegedly making a hate speech.

Court grants parole to Engineer Rashid to attend House session

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Engineer Rashid

A Delhi court on Tuesday granted custody parole to Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, also known as Engineer Rashid, to attend Parliament from July 24 to August 4, on days when the House is in session. The court, however, imposed costs and additional conditions on the parole.

The order was passed by Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh of the Patiala House Court who also rejected Mr. Rashid's application seeking interim bail to carry out his duties as a parliamentarian.

The National Investigation Agency opposed the interim bail plea and submitted that if Mr. Rashid is permitted to attend Parliament in custody, he should bear the cost of travel.

Mr. Rashid's counsel contended that he should be granted bail and, in the alternative, be allowed to attend Parliament in custody without being asked to pay travel expenses, as he was seeking to discharge a public duty.

Mr. Rashid has been lodged in Tihar Jail since 2019. He was arrested by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection with a 2017 terror funding case.

Both Houses of Parliament adjourned after Opposition MPs stage protests

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Raising objections: Opposition members staging a protest against the SIR in Bihar at Parliament complex in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

On the second day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Tuesday, Opposition members stalled the proceedings in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha over the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar and Operation Sindoor, with both the Houses getting adjourned without transacting any business.

Making an intervention in the Lok Sabha, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju accused the Opposition of "double standard". "They are asking for a debate and we are ready for a debate but they are not allowing the House to function," Mr. Rijiju said, adding,"These double standards are wrong; on one hand they ask for debate and then create a ruckus."

Between multiple adjournments, top Opposition leaders, including Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and his Lok Sabha counterpart, Rahul Gandhi, protested on the steps of the Parliament building in front of the main entrance. Opposition members were seen carrying placards that said SIR stood for "Subversion of Indian Republic" and "Stealing Indian Rights".

"Today both Houses of Parliament had to be adjourned because the Modi Govt refused a discussion on votebandi being orchestrated in Bihar and other States by the EC [Election Commission]," Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said on X.

12 notices rejected

The Rajya Sabha was adjourned twice during the first half, after Opposition MPs disrupted proceedings demanding a discussion on the electoral rolls revision. Soon after the House met for the day and after the listing of papers, Opposition members were on their feet raising slogans in support of their demands that included a discussion on the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Twelve notices under Rule 267 requiring suspension of the business for the day to discuss the subject of the notice were moved by the Opposition MPs but they were rejected.

Dhankhar defended farmers, and was vocal about reforms in the judiciary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jagdeep Dhankhar

Unlike his predecessors, Jagdeep Dhankhar, in his three years as Vice-President, courted controversy for the statements he made inside and outside Parliament. While he took a different stand from the Centre on farmers' protests, he was vehement on corruption in the judiciary.

He gave philosophical warnings to the government in a veiled manner against being audacious with people, but was vocal on issues such as *Sanatana Dharma* and insertion of the words "secularism" and "socialism" in the Constitution.

One of his first speeches as Vice-President on judicial accountability was made in December 2022 at the eighth Dr. L.M. Singhvi Memorial Lecture. Citing a Supreme Court verdict that repealed the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), Mr. Dhankhar, in the presence of then Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, said: "Please find out a parallel in the world where a Constitutional provision can be undone. Our Indian Constitution provides in explicit terms Article 145 (3). Interpretation of the Constitution when a substantial question of law is involved can be done by the court. Nowhere does it say that a provision can be run down," he said.

Later, when the Opposition criticised him for such a speech, he said in the Rajya Sabha that Parliament was eminently positioned to take affirmative steps to bring out congeniality among wings of governance.

Mr. Dhankhar reminded MPs that the Constitution had given privileges to them, but this privilege was not unqualified. "This privilege comes with very heavy responsibility and that responsibility is that every word spoken in Parliament must be after due thought, after due consideration," he had said.

Since December 2024, he has made several speeches in defence of the rights of farmers. At a function in Mumbai, in the presence of Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, he urged the Centre to talk to farmers who were protesting in the boundary areas of Punjab and Haryana. "We cannot fight with our own people; we cannot put them in this situation where they are left to fight on their own," he said.

He had also joined the debate on Sanatana Dharma, which was started by DMK leader Udayanidhi Stalin. "Ironically and painfully, in this country, reference to *sanatan*, reference to Hindu, evokes baffling reaction beyond comprehension rather than understanding the depth of these words, their deep meaning, people tend to be in reaction mode, at a drop of a hat... ," he said.

INBRIEF

Surprised at pace with which our body adapts: Shubhanshu

Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who is undergoing a rehabilitation programme in the U.S., said he was "surprised to observe the pace with which our body can adjust to new settings". In a post on Instagram, Group Captain Shukla, who returned to earth on July 15 after spending 18 days in the International Space Station, said, "Experiencing microgravity, our body goes through several changes like fluid shift, heart rate, balance readjustment, muscle loss. These are adaptations to the new environment. Once the body gets used to this and we return to gravity, these adjustments happen once again."

West Bengal bids farewell to Naxal leader Azizul Haque

Kolkata on Tuesday bid an emotional farewell to Naxal leader Azizul Haque, who passed away at a private hospital on Monday. He was 83. The veteran leader's passing marks the end of an era in radical Leftist politics of West Bengal. Haque is survived by his wife and daughter. Haque was one of the first leaders to be expelled from the CPI(M) for following his mentor Charu Mazumdar's ideology. He co-founded the CPI(ML)'s Second Central Committee with Nishith Bhattacharya. During their time, they tried to establish parallel revolutionary governments in West Bengal and Bihar. Born into a Zamindari family in 1942, he joined the Naxal movement at the age of 17 and gave up his share of the land as a show of his political ideology.

'In over 90% of sewer deaths, workers had no safety gear'

In an audit of 54 sewer deaths in 2022 and 2023, no equipment was given in 47 cases; only five of the deceased workers had gloves, one had gumboots; workers' consent was not taken in 27 cases

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Over 90% of workers who died while cleaning sewers did not have any safety gear or personalised protective equipment (PPE) kits, according to a recent social audit commissioned by the Union government to look into hazardous sewer and septic tank cleaning across the country. Even in the cases where they had some safety gear, it was limited to a pair of gloves and gumboots.

In September 2023, the Social Justice Ministry commissioned a study into hazardous cleaning deaths, which analysed the circumstances surrounding 54 such deaths in 17 districts across eight States and Union Territories that occurred in 2022 and 2023.

Government data show 150 people across the country died due to hazardous cleaning in 2022 and 2023.

The social audit, whose findings were made public in Parliament on Tuesday, investigated hiring mechanisms, the use of safety equipment, institutional set-ups, availability of PPE kits, rapid response readiness and equipment, and awareness of the law banning manual scavenging.

A sanitation worker cleaning a drain, during the cleanliness drive in New Delhi on Friday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

No safety equipment

In 49 out of the 54 deaths examined, the workers were not wearing any safety equipment. In five cases, they were wearing just gloves, and in one case, gloves and gumboots.

In 47 instances, "no mechanized equipment and safety gears for cleaning of sewers and septic tanks were made available to the workers", the audit report said. In fact, it was able to identify just two instances where this equipment was made available and only one where the requisite training was provided. The audit noted that in 45 of these deaths, "it was found that there is still no equipment readiness on the part of the concerned Agency carrying out such work".

Awareness drives were conducted – only "partially" – in the wake of just seven of the deaths, in Chennai and Kancheepuram districts in Tamil Nadu, and in Satara district in Maharashtra.

No informed consent

No consent was taken from workers in 27 cases, according to the social audit, which further noted that even in the 18 cases where written consent was taken from the workers, "they were not counselled on the risks involved in the work".

The study found that in 38 cases, the workers were "contracted personally/individually". In five cases, the workers were employed by a government agency, and in three cases, they were employed by the public sector but were hired by private employers for the particular work they were doing when they died.

These findings became public when the Social Justice Ministry was replying to a question in the Lok Sabha by Congress MP Praniti Sushilkumar Shinde. In its response, the Ministry added that it has already launched the NAMASTE scheme for addressing the problem of hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tank workers and waste-pickers in July 2023.

This is in line with the government's declaration that manual scavenging has ended in the country, and that it is the problem of hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks that now needs attention.

So far, the NAMASTE scheme has identified 84,902 sewer and septic tank workers in 36 States and UTs across the country, of which a little over half have been provided with PPE kits and safety gear.

'Weight gain begins 8 weeks after stopping anti-obesity drugs'

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

A review of data from clinical trials of weight-loss drugs has concluded that weight regain begins about eight weeks after stopping these medications, and continues up to 20 weeks, before stabilising at about 26 weeks.

The paper "Trajectory of the body weight after drug discontinuation in the treatment of anti-obesity medications" published in *BMC Medicine*, an open access, transparent peer-reviewed general medical journal, also observed that at 52 weeks, the subjects of the trial still weighed less than they did before starting medication, but the weight loss was reduced compared with when they were actively taking the drugs.

11 clinical trials

The researchers Han Wu et al, from the Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Peking University People's Hospital, China, analysed data from 11 clinical trials with 1,573 people taking anti-obesity medication. These medications included GLP-1 receptor agonists (such as semaglutide, liraglutide), orlistat, naltrexone-bupropion, and phentermine-topiramate.

The researchers observed that people who lost more weight during treatment were more likely to regain weight, even if they continued lifestyle interventions (including diet and exercise).

Those who started with a lower body mass index (BMI), meaning they were less overweight, showed more weight regain after stopping than those with higher BMI, they found.

"This is an interesting study with robust meta analyses, but similar results have been shown in many other trials too," says Dr. Nanditha, consultant diabetologist, Dr. A. Ramachandran's Diabetes Hospitals, Chennai. "Any intervention, either when you step down or discontinue, will result in weight gain, even if it is lifestyle modifications."

However, it is important to see the usefulness of these drugs in the context of the obesity epidemic. "Earlier, we did not have many tools to treat it, now these drugs are providing hope to people who can lose weight without surgery. What is clear is that the regain will not take you back to the baseline weight, so while expensive, these drugs should be considered an investment, because the benefits go beyond weight loss," Dr. Nanditha said.

History of air crash probes shows investigators disagree on pilot complicity

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

In two out of four fatal air-crash probes studied by academic researchers, the investigators from the national agencies disagreed with the United States National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on whether the pilots intentionally crashed their planes.

In three of the four cases, the length of investigations averaged two-three years and in only one case the deceased pilot was proven to have a history of clinically diagnosed depression.

"Psychological autopsy" – a form of forensic investigation into the mental state of the deceased – was a key factor in determining pilot intentionality and even then "there could rarely be certainty about suicidal intent being the sole cause of an accident," Alpo Vuorio, psychologist and an academic researcher of aviation disasters, told *The Hindu* in an email.

Questions on the mental health of the pilot have surfaced around the ongoing investigation into the crash of the Air India flight AI-171 from Ahmedabad to Gatwick on June 12 in which 241 passengers, including crew, were killed and 19 were killed on the ground.

Since 1994, there have been only six confirmed instances globally involving commercial planes that investigating agencies attributed to actions by the pilot. Within these, only four have published reports and analyses in academic literature.

Based on flying-accident reports in the United States from 1993 to 2021, 24 out of 7,244 – or 0.33% – fatal accident cases in general aviation were formally attributed to be "aircraft-assisted suicides". The vast majority of these accidents involved pilots flying their own planes or those of very small operators where planes usually did not carry FDR (Flight Data Recorder) and CVR (Cockpit Voice Recorder), said a 2023 study led by Dr. Vuorio in the journal *Aviation Space Environment*.

The first of these was Silk Air Flight 185 (Jakarta-Singapore) in December 1999, which killed 97 passengers and seven crew members. A Boeing 737, it crashed into the Musi river, Sumatra after nose-diving from an altitude of nearly 35,000 feet.

Following a nearly three-year investigation, the National Transportation Safety Corporation (NTSC) – the Indonesian equivalent of India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau that is investigating the Ahmedabad crash – concluded that the "technical investigation has yielded no evidence to explain the cause of the accident". The U.S. agency NTSB dissented. "There was no evidence of a mechanical failure of any of the flight control systems or related components that would have been causal or contributing to the accident and the accident can be explained by intentional pilot action," said the 140-page report. This report also placed on record that the captain, who had commandeered the plane, was reportedly battling a financial crisis, though it was also stated that he displayed no aberrant behaviour prior to the flight.

Air India's Ahmedabad-London flight crashed shortly after take-off in Gujarat on June 12. VIJAY SONEJI

The second accident occurred on October 31, 1999, when Egypt Air Flight 990, a Boeing 767, crashed into the Atlantic Ocean, south of Massachusetts. About 29 minutes after take-off, the FDR showed that the First Officer disconnected the autopilot. He was alone in the cockpit with the Captain having left for a bathroom break.

Flight control inputs

The NTSB determined that the "probable cause was... as a result of the First Officer's flight control inputs". The Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA), while first collaborating with the NTSB on the investigation, concluded that "the officer did not deliberately dive the air-plane into the ocean" and that mechanical failure was "a plausible and likely cause of the accident". The third accident, on November 2013, involved the Mozambique Airlines Flight 470 from Maputo, Mozambique to Luanda, Angola. The Embraer E190 twinjet crashed into the Bwabwata National Park, Namibia, killing all 27 passengers and six crew members. About an hour and 50 minutes into the flight, the First Officer stated that he had to go to the toilet. The Captain handled the auto flight system leading to a "sustained descent and collision with the terrain", says the investigation report. While here the investigation agencies of the Mozambique and Namibia attributed the plane's "unnatural" descent to the pilot, the Mozambique Association of Air Operators disputed the finding.

The fourth analysed accident – the only one where there was rapid, unanimous consensus that a pilot, with a history of psychiatric problems, intentionally crashed the plane – occurred on March 24, 2015 with Germanwings Flight 4U9525 from Barcelona, Spain to Dusseldorf, Germany. There were 150 casualties following the crash of the Airbus A-320.

According to the investigation report, in the cruise phase of the flight, the First Officer waited until he was alone in the cockpit. Then he modified the autopilot settings causing the aeroplane to descend and, kept the cockpit door locked. The First Officer did not respond to the calls from air traffic controllers, and the aircraft fell into the French Alps. One of the quickest investigations, which officially concluded within a year, the French Bureau of Enquiry and Analysis for Civil Aviation Safety (BEA) and its German counterpart, the Federal Bureau of Aircraft Accident Investigation (BFU) concluded that the pilot had deliberately crashed the plane as a "murder-suicide". German investigators found a doctor's note in the pilot's apartment, three days following the crash, indicating that he was "unfit to fly".

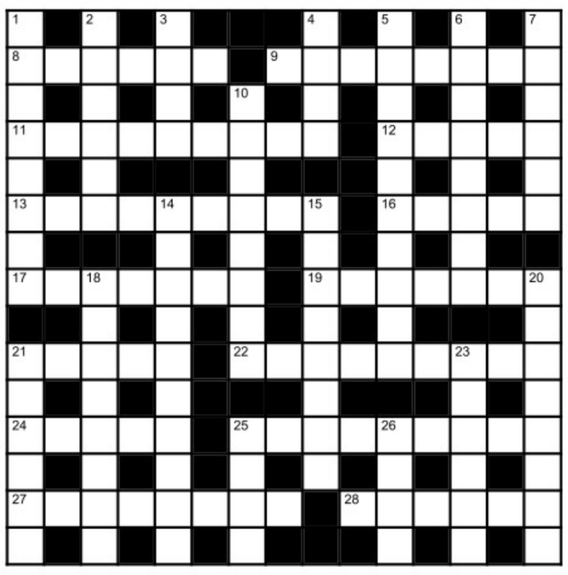
"The links between pilot suicides and social change, such as unemployment threats and financial recession, have not been studied, given the low numbers of pilot suicide cases as well as the unpredictability and infrequency of recession, coupled with methodological challenges such as suitable comparison groups and the absence of baseline measures," said Dr. Vuorio. "However, it has been found that significant sudden changes in society may increase the number of pilot suicides."

TH CROSSWORD + 14544

(set by Saral)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Loots guns (6)
9 Kids cried hard, jumping, chewing piece of lollipop with honey essentially (8)
11 Defilement of instrument rewriting on it (9)
12 One scoundrel with drug is furious (5)
13 Old wager returning inside retreat with small laptops (9)
16 Gas contained in volcano gradually coming back (5)
17 Grave words in record by Thai president is altered (7)
19 Chef eventually drops buds (7)
21 Notices cycles in fish (5)
22 Informed about her strangely quiet entry (9)
24 Nausea, disoriented European abandoned steam bath (5)
25 Size fixed, game unit designed finally (9)
27 Painter using simulator not ordinary (8)
28 Spread samosas, plates right away with lemon for starters (6)

Down

1 Five entering Ripon building near church area (8)
2 Struggle of English force opening castle (6)
3 Gamble with a Greek character (4)
4 Avoid bright star, hot chaps (4)
5 Large reptiles initially rolling, turning a log with tails (10)
6 Realign bent cross above figure (8)
7 Indian ushering new bird trainee (6)
10 Backlash of company controlled by wealthy, evading taxes from the beginning (8)
14 Leader of brigadier wants to include post for forces (10)
15 Harry argues engaging two females for voting right (8)
18 Rush from extremely heavy rain maybe engulfing ancient city (2,1,5)
20 Note sly dude moving abruptly (8)
21 Sailors pruned, picked up second plant (6)
23 Missing the first funny remark related to viewers (6)
25 Reviewing contents of that same post (4)
26 Rogues banishing the Spanish in drives (4)

SUDOKU

4			7	6				
	1	5	4					
3	8		1		9			
8		9						3
	5						7	
2						6		9
			8		2		9	7
					7	3	5	
				3	4			2

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

A	D	R	I	F	T		C	O
P		E		O			B	
P	A	L	T	R	Y		T	E
R		I		W		C		Y
A	R	A	M	A	E	A	N	
I		B		R		L		A
S	E	L	F	D	E	L	U	S
E		E		T		I		C
			C	H	A	N	G	E
S		O		I		G		T
U	N	B	E	N	D		V	I
D		L		K		T		C
O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L	
K		G		N		P		
U	B	E	R	G	E	E	K	

C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	
	B		R		R		O	
T	E	L	E	C	A	S	T	
	Y		S		U		A	
I	S	O	M	E	R			
A		C		A			Y	
U	S	I	O	N				
N		N		N			G	
N	G	E	O	F	L	I	F	E
T		E		C			M	
V	I	T	R	E	O	U	S	
C		E		T			T	
I	N	D	I	G	O			
C		N		N				
R	E	N	E	G	E			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	3	4	5	7	8	6	2
8	7	5	9	6	2	3	1	4
2	4	6	3	8	1	7	9	5
4	2	9	6	1	3	5	7	8
3	5	8	7	9	4	6	2	1
7	6	1	5	2	8	9	4	3
5	8	4	1	7	6	2	3	9
6	3	2	8	4	9	1	5	7
1	9	7	2	3	5	4	8	6

FAITH

Timely action

Time is precious like gold - this is an oft-repeated observation. But a scholar went further and said time is even more precious than gold. It is as priceless as life itself, he said. If we lose wealth, we can work hard, save a significant portion of our earnings and become wealthy again. But if we lose life, can we regain it? That is why this scholar compared time to life. Time can be divided into past, present and future. The past is like an expired cheque. The present is like cash in your hands. The future should be our focus, for our efforts can lead to a successful future, said R. Narayanan in a discourse.

Determination will help us accomplish many things. We should not miss the proper time to do something. Whatever is done when it should be done, will definitely yield the desired results. Is anything impossible, if done at the proper time, asks Thiruvalluvar. If you decide to do something and you are firm in your resolve to do it, then you will be successful, says another *kural* (verse).

Whatever we set about doing, must be done with careful planning. Planning helps us save time. The *Thirukkural* sounds a note of caution. Thiruvalluvar says that we must think before we act. It is foolish to be hasty in our actions and then ponder over them later on. It is not wrong to have great aspirations. You can even aspire to rule the world, and achieve this goal too, if you act at the right time. The stork waits near the river bank, while shoals of small fish swim by. The bird may be hungry, but it does not catch these fish. It waits until a big fish comes by. We should be like the stork, waiting patiently for the right moment, and then act, to reap the maximum benefit.

INBRIEF

₹99,000 crore foregone in corporate tax revenue: MoS

The government is estimated to have forgone around ₹99,000 crore in revenue in the 2023-24 fiscal on account of tax incentives extended to corporates, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Tuesday. In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, he gave the estimated revenue forgone due to the tax incentives by way of various deductions in corporate tax, from FY 2019-20 to 2023-24. Estimated revenue foregone for FY2024-25 till date is not available, he said. PTI

Tata Communications to build AI-led network for AWS

Tata Communications on Tuesday said it has partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to deploy an advanced, AI-ready long-distance network across India. The project, which is likely to involve a capital investment of about ₹430 crore from Tata Communications, is expected to be completed by the end of FY26. The network will connect AWS infrastructure in Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Chennai and will have a capacity of 7.2 Tbps with a cable length of 18,000 km. PTI

Eternal stock soars 10.34% despite plunge in Q1 net profit

Food aggregator Zomato's parent firm Eternal's stock price rose 10.34% to ₹299.8 on Tuesday, despite a 90% plunge in Q1FY26 net profit to ₹25 crore. The last time the stock was up the same quantum was on July 26, 2021, three days after it got listed. The stock's performance assumes significance as among the 993 days of trading, it was on a decline on 49% of days. Quick comm platform Blinkit outpacing Zomato in revenue has led to the surge in Eternal's stock price.

India-U.S. trade deal: Deadlock continues over agriculture

Officials anticipate a surprise from President Trump in the negotiations, with agriculture and automotive components remaining key issues

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

With the August 1 deadline approaching, agriculture continues to loom large as an impediment to a trade deal between India and the U.S.

India continues to hold firm against opening up the sector to imports to protect Indian farmers, and the U.S. remains keen that the sector be opened up as such a deal would set the precedent for future deals it strikes with the EU and Japan.

Officials, however, are not ruling out a last-minute surprise from U.S. President Donald Trump, similar to what happened with Indonesia and Vietnam.

"The Indian team is back from the U.S. and has left them with what India has to offer," an official aware of the negotiations told *The Hindu*.

"Now, whether they accept the terms or not is up to them. Agriculture remains a major issue where there is lack of agreement," the official added.

India has been resisting the opening up of the agriculture sector to imports to protect domestic farmers.

According to the official, opening up the Indian market to U.S. agricultural imports is however not just about market access.

Tough call: India has been resisting the opening up of the agriculture sector to imports to protect domestic farmers. GIRI KVS

"India is one of the few countries that is pushing very hard for a deal," the official said.

Risk avoidance

"So, it is likely a deal with India will be concluded before the U.S. concludes a deal with the EU or Japan. If agriculture is excluded from the India deal, then that could set the precedent for the EU and Japan deals, and the U.S. doesn't want to risk that."

However, according to another source, the bulk of India's negotiation points are now aimed at a broader Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by September or October this year, rather than a 'mini deal' before August 1. Yet, the government is prepared for a surprise deal announced by U.S. President Donald Trump.

"See what happened with Indonesia and Vietnam; the U.S. President announced details of the deal that both Indonesian and Vietnamese negotiators said were not part of what they agreed to," the second source said.

"This was done after a phone conversation between Mr. Trump and the heads of Indonesia and Vietnam, respectively. The same can always pop up with India; we have not ruled it out."

Key hurdle

Both sources confirmed that, while agriculture and dairy remain hurdles from the Indian side, a key hurdle from the U.S. side is their reluctance to reduce import duties on automotive components to zero.

'Extreme weather may harm Indian cities, cause billions of dollar in losses'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indian cities hold tremendous potential as centres of economic growth, with 70% of new jobs coming from them by 2030.

However, extreme weather events can lead to billions of dollars in future losses and timely action is needed to deal with it, according to a new World Bank report.

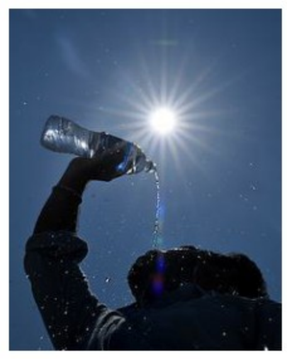
The report – 'Towards Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India' – prepared in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, says that India's urban population is expected to almost double by 2050 to 951 million and more than 144 million new homes will be needed by 2070.

At the same time, intense heat waves and urban heat island effects are already causing temperatures in city centres to rise by over 3-4 degrees over surrounding areas.

The rapid growth of built-up areas is also reducing cities' capacity to absorb storm water, making them more vulnerable to floods.

The report studied 24 Indian cities with special focus on Chennai, Indore, New Delhi, Lucknow, Surat and Thiruvananthapuram.

With over 50% of the urban infrastructure required for 2050 still to be built, India has a critical opportunity to drive resilient urban infrastructure development, it said.



Intense heat waves are causing temperatures in cities to soar, says the World Bank report.

"The imperative for India to build resilient cities at scale is clear. By investing in more green and resilient urban development, including housing, transport, and municipal services, cities can better mitigate extreme heat conditions and urban floods, and continue to grow and create jobs," said Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank Country Director.

The report outlined some key recommendations to urgently help Indian cities and support vulnerable populations like implementing programmes to address extreme urban heat and flooding, including better regulation of storm water, green spaces, installation of cool roofs, and effective early warning systems.

The report cites examples of how several cities in India are already taking urgent steps to build resilience.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,187	-0.01
US Dollar	86.38	-0.08
Gold	1,00,020	1.00
Brent oil	68.20	-0.98

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2587.80	-31.70
Adani Ports	1420.70	-29.80
Apollo Hosp	7246.50	-8.00
Asian Paints	2365.20	-10.20
Axis Bank	1098.00	-1.60
Bajaj Auto	8295.00	-143.50
Bajaj Finserv	2039.60	-14.30
Bajaj Finance	952.55	4.10
Bharat Elec	403.10	3.15
Bharti Airtel	1906.80	-2.40
Cipla	1464.40	-9.50
Coal India	389.10	2.30
Dr Reddys Lab	1240.00	-19.30
Eicher Motors	5439.50	-118.50
Eternal Ltd.	299.80	28.10
Grasim Ind	2722.70	-19.20
HCL Tech	1520.10	-10.30
HDFC Bank	2007.10	6.60
HDFC Life	763.30	11.00
Hero MotoCorp	4342.40	-65.80
Hindalco	690.05	7.35
Hind Unilever	2479.70	14.80
ICICI Bank	1473.60	7.80
IndusInd Bank	843.20	-15.60
Infosys	1570.90	-13.40
ITC	416.00	-4.10
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	310.80	-6.45
JSW Steel	1030.70	-4.10
Kotak Bank	2160.20	-5.00
L&T	3464.60	-38.20
M&M	3257.20	10.50
Maruti Suzuki	12492.00	87.00
NestleIndia	2443.50	-29.10
NTPC	340.85	-0.70
ONGC	246.41	1.37
PowerGrid Corp	297.80	0.80
Reliance Ind	1412.80	-15.80
SBI Life	1809.00	4.30
State Bank	815.00	-9.20
Shriram Finance Ltd.	640.15	-15.50
Sun Pharma	1678.00	-14.30
TataConsumerProduct	1084.80	-5.50
Tata Motors	673.40	-14.05
Tata Steel	163.04	0.02
TCS	3159.60	1.40
Tech Mahindra	1547.20	3.40
Titan	3472.40	39.40
Trent Ltd.	5360.50	-15.50
UltraTech Cement	12452.00	-125.00
Wipro	259.70	-0.65

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 22

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.17	86.49
Euro	100.82	101.20
British Pound	116.14	116.57
Japanese Yen (100)	58.42	58.65
Chinese Yuan	12.01	12.06
Swiss Franc	108.11	108.51
Singapore Dollar	67.23	67.49
Canadian Dollar	62.99	63.25
Malaysian Ringitt	20.35	20.45
Australian Dollar	56.12	56.34

Source:Indian Bank

The firm asserted there was no impact on its financials or operations due the order.

Hyundai Motor India gets ₹517.34 cr. GST, penalty demand

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Hyundai Motor India Ltd on Tuesday said it has received a demand of ₹517.34 crore from tax authorities, along with penalty, for alleged short payment of GST compensation cess on certain SUV models.

The firm received an order from Commissioner (Appeals), CGST Dept, Tamil Nadu, confirming GST compensation cess demand of ₹258.67 crore, with a penalty of ₹258.67 crore on 'short payment of GST compensation cess' on certain SUV models for September 2017-March 2020, the Hyundai Motor India said in a filing.

Reacting to the demand, a company spokesperson said, "HMIL is of the view the amendment and the clarifications given by the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs (CBIC) to resolve the issue faced by the industry on this matter are in favour of the company. We are in the process of reviewing the order and will exercise the right to seek a legal remedy."

The firm asserted there was no impact on its financial, operation or other activities due to the order.

AGI Greenpac surges on Q1, eyes ₹1,000-cr. aluminium can foray

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

AGI Greenpac shares surged almost 15% on Tuesday after the glass container maker announced a 41% year-on-year rise in standalone net profit for the June quarter to ₹89 crore and plans to enter the aluminium-can segment.

For the foray, it intends to set up a manufacturing plant in Uttar Pradesh by investing ₹1,000 crore.

"This new venture offers strong synergies with our existing glass packaging business. Both categories serve the alcohol and F&B industries, allowing for leveraging existing customer relationships, distribution networks and supply chain efficiencies," CMD Sandip Somany said.

The net profit came on a 25% growth in total income to ₹721 crore. AGI said a factor contributing to the profitability was successful upgrade of the product mix, now including premium, higher-margin segments such as cosmetics, perfumery and alcohol.

On the UP unit the firm said investment will be made in two phases and the facility is likely to be operational by Q3 FY28. It will have an initial annual production capacity of 950 million aluminium cans. The firm's shares on Tuesday closed 14.76% higher at ₹972.85 apiece on the BSE.

Colgate-Palmolive Q1 net profit slips 12% on weak urban demand

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The company's sales were down 4.38% to ₹1,420.64 crore during the quarter under review

Colgate-Palmolive India Ltd. reported a decline of 11.9% in net profit to ₹320.62 crore for the first quarter FY26 ended June on account of subdued urban demand and elevated competition intensity.

Sales were down 4.38% to ₹1,420.64 crore during the quarter under review, as per a filing.

"Q1 results reflect persistent headwinds from tough operating conditions on subdued urban demand and elevated competition intensity. The current quarter performance is also influenced by cycling high base from the previous year," said MD & CEO Prabha Narasimhan.

Total expenses slid 1% to ₹1,020.05 crore.

Ms. Narasimhan said, the company expected to navigate the current challenges and anticipate a gradual recovery in the second half of the year.

Paytm swings to black with Q1 net of ₹122.5 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Paytm swung to a net profit of ₹122.5 crore for the quarter ended June 30 from a net loss of ₹840 crore logged in the year-earlier period.

Revenue increased 28% to ₹1,917.5 crore. "Contribution profit increased 52% YoY to ₹1,151 crore with the contribution margin improving to 60%, on account of higher share of distribution of financial services revenue, increase in net payment revenue and lower other direct expenses," the company said in a statement.

Other income surged 75% to ₹241 crore in the reporting quarter.

"The net payment revenue rose 38% YoY to ₹529 crore, led by growth in high-quality subscription merchants and an increase in payment processing margins, as the company consolidated its leadership in merchant payments. Financial Services revenue grew 100% YoY to ₹561 crore, driven by continued expansion in merchant loans, trail revenue from Default Loss Guarantee (DLG) portfolio and improved collection performance," Paytm added.

CFO to step down

Paytm owner One97 Communications' Group chief financial officer (CFO) Madhur Deora will step down from the board as he is not seeking reappointment, according to a regulatory filing.

Former bureaucrat Bimal Julka, a non-executive independent director of Paytm, has resigned from the board, as per the filing.

(With PTI inputs)

COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
CIAL/COML/PSA/2025 — 23rd July 2025
TENDER NOTICE
PRIVATE SECURITY AGENCY
Sealed Pre-Qualification documents are invited from eligible agencies for providing Private Security Agency (PSA) services to CIAL. The PSA shall carry out non-core aviation security functions at Cochin International Airport for a period of three years. The supporting documents should reach the office of the Managing Director, CIAL on or before 11th Aug 2025. For further details, please visit our website **www.cial.aero/tenders** or Ph:0484-2610115, Extn: 2274,3507, email: jithin.paul@cial.aero
(Sd/-)
MANAGING DIRECTOR

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड नवलगढ़
क्रमांकः- 1102 — **Corrigendum** — दिनांकः- 14.07.2025
इस कार्यालय के क्रमांक 342 दिनांक 23.05.2025 द्वारा आमंत्रित ऑनलाईन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 04/2025-26 (Ro. No. 7013) में अपरिहार्य कारणो से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है:-

क्र. सं.	विवरण	निविदा में टेण्डर प्रस्तुत करने की अन्तिम दिनांक व समय	पूर्व टेण्डर प्रस्तुत करने की अन्तिम दिनांक व समय	संशोधित टेण्डर प्रस्तुत करने की अन्तिम दिनांक व समय
1	ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म डाउनलोड करने व अपलोड करने	16.06.2025 सायं 6.00 बजे तक	14.07.2025 सायं 6.00 बजे तक	24.07.2025 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
2	निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	24.06.2025 दोपहर 1.00 बजे	15.07.2025 दोपहर 1.00 बजे	25.07.2025 दोपहर 1.00 बजे

1. क्र.सं. 8 पर वर्णित कार्य की निविदा निरस्त की जाती है।
2. क्र.सं. 11 पर वर्णित कार्य की निविदा राशि 215.84 लाख के स्थान पर 191.86 लाख पढा जावे।
शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

NIB No. PWD2526A0774

1. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB02409	2. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB02413	3. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB02415
4. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB02418	5. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB02420	6. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB02421
7. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB02422	8. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB02423	9. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB02424
10. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB02426	11. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB02428	

DIPR/C/10006/2025 — (हरीश यादव), अधिशासी अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि., खण्ड नवलगढ़

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, पदेन परियोजना प्रबंधक, वाटरशेड सेल कम डाटा सेन्टर, डी-157, दुर्गा मार्ग, बनीपार्क, जयपुर
E-mail:-sewdsc.jaipur@rajasthan.gov.in, Phone no.:- 0141-2209896
क्रमांकः- 808-14 — दिनांकः 16.07.2025
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या- 04/2025-26
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना 2.0 एवं मुख्यमंत्री जल स्वावलम्बन अभियान 2.0 एवं 2.2 के तहत् स्वीकृत परियोजना क्षेत्रों में एनिकट एवं पक्का चैक डेम के निर्माण कार्य, रिचार्ज साफ्ट, एम.पी.टी., परकोलेशन टेंक, तालाब रेनोवेशन, सब सरफेस बेरियर, ईसीडी, संकन पोण्ड एवं फार्म पोण्ड (HDPE Sheet) इत्यादि के अन्तर्गत करवाये जाने वाले विभिन्न निर्माण कार्य हेतु जिला जयपुर में स्वीकृत कार्यों हेतु राजस्थान लोक उपापन में परदर्शिता नियम 2013 के अनुसरण में राज्य सरकार के सार्व. निर्माण विभाग, जल संसाधन विभाग, जन.स्वा. एवं अभि. विभाग, सिंचाई क्षेत्र विकास एवं केन्द्रीय सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभाग में पंजीकृत सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा दिनांक 17.07.2025 प्रातः 9.30 से दिनांक 28.07.2025 को सायं 06:00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। दिनांक 29.07.2025 को सुबह 11:00 बजे कार्यालय में खोली जावेगी। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण "https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in", "https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं विभागीय वेबसाईट "www.watershed.gov.in" पर देखा जा सकता है।
NIB CODE:- WSC2526A0487 UBN No:
1-WSC2526WSOB00807, 2-WSC2526WSOB00808, 3-WSC2526WSOB00811
4-WSC2526WSOB00812, 5-WSC2526WSOB00813, 6-WSC2526WSOB00814
7-WSC2526WSOB00815, 8-WSC2526WSOB00816, 9-WSC2526WSOB00817
10-WSC2526WSOB00818, 11-WSC2526WSOB00819, 12-WSC2526WSOB00820
(दिनेश कुमार)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता पदेन परियोजना प्रबंधक वाटरशेड सैल कम डाटा सेन्टर, जयपुर
DIPR/C/10109/25

BANGALORE UNIVERSITY
NAAC Accredited with A++ GRADE
Recognised by UGC, Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade
Jnanbharathi Campus, Bengaluru - 560056, Karnataka
No.Aca-IV/PG/Admn./2025-26 — Date: 22/07/2025
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION
Bangalore University invites applications for admission to the various **PG Courses (MA/M.S.W/M.Sc/M.Com / MTTM) and B.P.Ed** course at Bangalore University Departments at Jnanabharathi Campus, PG centre at Ramanagara and in its Affiliated Colleges for the academic year 2025-26.
- The candidates who wish to apply for B.P.Ed / PG courses (except M.Ed/M.P.Ed course) have to apply through the UUCMS Online portal; **https://uucms.karnataka.gov.in/Login/Index only.** (Refer: candidates user manual 2022-PG Admission).
- The application fee of **Rs.300/- (Rs.150/- for SC/ST/ Category-I** of Karnataka Domicile and transgender candidates only) is payable through online only.
- The last date for applying to B.P.Ed & PG courses without penal fee is **13.08.2025** However candidates can **apply till 15.08.2025 with a penal fee of Rs.200/-**
- The hard copies of the filled in online application along with self attested photocopies of relevant documents shall be submitted separately to the respective PG Departments within **18.08.2025** for which the candidate seeks admission.
- For more details, please visit the University **website; https://bangaloreuniversity.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/RO1975/AAPL/2025-26
Sd/-
REGISTRAR

AHMEDABAD JANMARG LIMITED (AJL)
Ahmedabad Janmarg Ltd.
(A 100% subsidiary of Amdavad Municipal Corporation)
Dr. Ramanbhai Patel Bhavan, Amdavad Municipal Corporation, West Zone Office, Usmanpura Ahmedabad -380013
Request for Proposal for Preparation of Service and Business Plan (SBP) for Bus Operations in Ahmedabad
TENDER NO:- 13 / 2025 - 26
AJL invites proposals from duly qualified interested parties for Preparation of Service and Business Plan (SBP) for Bus Operations in Ahmedabad. RFP shall be available at www.tender.nprocure.com from 23/07/2025 onwards.

Pre bid meeting	Date: 31/07/2025, at 12:00 pm.
Last date of online submission of technical and price bids	Date: 18/08/2025, by 06:00 pm.
Offline submissions of RFP Fee and EMD	Date: 19/08/2025, by 03:00 pm.
Technical Bids Opening	Date: 19/08/2025, by 04:00 pm.

Executive Director
Ahmedabad Janmarg Ltd.

pfrda पेंशन निधि विनियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण
PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Engagement for Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at PFRDA on Contract Basis
Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is a statutory regulatory body established by Parliament of India under the PFRDA Act (23 of 2013) and set up under Ministry of Finance, Government of India with the mandate to promote, develop and regulate pension sector in India. PFRDA invites applications for the position of Chief Technology Officer (CTO) on a contract basis.
2. As a contributor to the leadership team, the engaged person will work closely with the Top Management, domain experts, and steering committees to define the organization's technological future ensuring platforms are scalable, resilient, secure, data-driven, and compliant with regulatory standards. The CTO will receive a fixed monthly payment of Rs. 6.25 lakhs, with no additional benefits.
3. Details of requisite qualification along with terms and conditions of appointment to the post may be seen at PFRDA website: www.pfrda.org.in. Eligible and willing candidates may apply by sending their applications by post, clearly marked 'Application for Chief Technology Officer, PFRDA (on contract)' to:
The Chief General Manager
(Human Resource Department)
Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
E-500, World Trade Centre, Tower E, Fifth floor, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi- 110029
4. Applications must be complete and submitted in the specified format on or before August 18, 2025. PFRDA reserves the right to modify/cancel/terminate the exercise at any stage as may be considered appropriate by the Authority.
Chief General Manager
(Human Resources)

BRUSSELS

EU top diplomat tells Israel to stop killing Gazans at aid points

AFP

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas on Tuesday condemned Israel's military for killing civilians at Gaza aid distribution points, calling it "indefensible". She urged Israel to stop and emphasised the need for increased humanitarian aid access. The EU warned Israel that all options remain open if promises are unmet. AFP

BEIJING

China probes Tibet ex-leader over 'bribes, superstitious activities'

Chinese authorities removed former Tibet leader Qizhala over alleged crimes including bribery, misuse of public funds, illegal banquets, collusion with businesses, and long-term engagement in banned "superstitious activities". His family also exploited his position for personal gain amid strict CCP controls on religion. AFP

LONDON

Ozzy Osbourne, Black Sabbath's bat-biting frontman, dies aged 76

AP

Ozzy Osbourne, the iconic frontman of 1970s heavy metal band Black Sabbath, gained fame for wild performances, including biting a bat's head off. Known as the "Prince of Darkness," he sold over 100 million records, later becoming a beloved reality TV star in 'The Osbournes'. He died on Tuesday aged 76, his family said. REUTERS

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan court sentences dozens from Khan's party to 10 years

AFP

A court in Pakistan's Sargodha sentenced on Tuesday Malik Ahmad Khan Bhachar, Opposition Leader in the Punjab Assembly, and over three dozen PTI members to 10 years in prison. They were convicted of involvement in the May 2023 riots, which included attacks on government buildings following Imran Khan's arrest. AFP

21 children died from starvation in 72 hours in Gaza, says hospital

UN Secretary-General warns that 'the last lifelines keeping people alive are collapsing' in the enclave; at least 20 people were killed in strikes as Israel pushed on with a new incursion in an area that had largely been spared during the war

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Fragile lives: Palestinian children wait for a meal at a charity kitchen in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday. AFP

The head of Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City said on Tuesday that 21 children had died across the Palestinian territory in the past three days "due to malnutrition and starvation"."These deaths were recorded at hospitals in Gaza, including Al-Shifa in Gaza City, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah and Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis... over the past 72 hours," Mohammed Abu Salmiya told reporters.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned on Monday evening that "the last lifelines keeping people alive are collapsing" in Gaza, and that there were growing reports of children and adults with malnutrition.

Mr. Abu Salmiya told reporters that new cases of malnutrition and starvation were arriving at Gaza's remaining functioning hospitals "every moment".

"We are heading towards alarming numbers of deaths due to the starvation inflicted on the people of Gaza," he added.

After talks to extend a six-week ceasefire broke down, Israel imposed a full blockade on Gaza on March 2 this year, allowing nothing in until trucks were again permitted at a trickle in late May.

But stocks accumulated during the ceasefire gradually depleted, leaving the territory's more than two million inhabitants experiencing the worst shortages since the start of the war in October 2023.

World Food Programme director Carl Skau, who visited Gaza City in early July, called the situation "the worst" that he had ever seen.

Last Sunday, Gaza's civil defence agency reported that at least three infants died from "severe hunger and malnutrition" in the past week.

Gaza's health authorities said at least 20 people were killed in Israeli strikes on Tuesday, as Israel pushed on with a new incursion in an area that had largely been spared heavy fighting during the 21-month war.

The Israeli military ordered evacuations from parts of the city earlier this week.

U.S. to pull out of UNESCO again, 2 years after rejoining

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Tammy Bruce

The United States announced on Tuesday it will again pull out of the UN's educational, scientific and cultural agency because it believes that its involvement is not in the country's national interest, and that the agency promotes anti-Israel speech. This decision comes only two years after the United States rejoined UNESCO after leaving in 2018, during U.S. President Donald Trump's first administration.

State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said the withdrawal was linked to UNESCO's perceived agenda to "advance divisive social and cultural causes".

She added in a statement that UNESCO's decision "to admit the 'State of Palestine' as a Member State is highly problematic, contrary to U.S. policy, and contributed to the proliferation of anti-Israel rhetoric within the organisation".

The decision, first reported by the *New York Post*, will take effect at the end of December 2026.

This will be the third time that the United States has left UNESCO, which is based in Paris, and the second time during a Trump administration. It last rejoined the agency in 2023, under the Biden administration.

UNESCO's Director General Audrey Azoulay said she "deeply" regrets the U.S. decision but insisted that it was expected, and that the agency "has prepared for it". She also denied accusations of anti-Israel bias.

"These claims ... contradict the reality of UNESCO's efforts, particularly in the field of Holocaust education and the fight against anti-Semitism," she said.

The U.S withdrawal is likely to affect UNESCO because the U.S. provides a notable share of the agency's budget. But the organization should be able to cope.

Bangladesh mourns 31 dead amid protests for accountability

Associated Press
DHAKA

A Bangladesh air force personnel inspects the crash site a day after a training jet crashed into a school in Dhaka on Tuesday. AFP

Hundreds of students protested near the site of the crash of a Bangladesh air force training jet into a school in the nation's capital, demanding accountability, compensation for victims' families and the halt of training flights.

The toll from the crash rose to 31 in the deadliest plane crash in the Bangladeshi capital in recent memory, including at least 25 students, a teacher who died from burn injuries she sustained while helping others get out of the burning building, and the pilot of the training aircraft.

The protesting students demanded "accurate" publication of identities of the dead and injured, compensation for their families, and an immediate halt to the use of "outdated and unsafe" training aircraft by the air force.

They accused security officials of beating them and manhandling teachers.

Trump accuses Obama of 'treason'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump on Tuesday accused his predecessor Barack Obama of "treason" and called for his prosecution over a report alleging that officials in the Democrat's administration had manipulated information on Russia's interference in the 2016 election.

Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Tulsi Gabbard claimed Mr. Obama and his team had manufactured intelligence regarding Russian election interference.

Iran FM says Tehran will not abandon nuclear enrichment

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Iran has no plans to abandon its nuclear program, including uranium enrichment, despite "severe" damage to its facilities after U.S. strikes last month, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Monday.

For now, enrichment "is stopped because, yes, damages are serious and severe," Mr. Araghchi told *Fox News*' "Special Report with Bret Baier".

"But obviously we cannot give up enrichment because it is an achievement of our own scientists," he continued, calling it a source of "national pride". He stressed that any future nuclear deal would have to contain the right to enrichment.

When asked whether any enriched uranium had been saved from the strikes, Mr. Araghchi said he had "no detailed information," but that Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation is "trying to evaluate what has exactly happened to our nuclear material, to our enriched material".

Washington bombed three nuclear facilities in Iran on June 22 to support Israel's 12-day military offensive, including the Fordow underground uranium enrichment site located south of Tehran.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly called the strikes a success that "completely destroyed" the sites, lashing out at media reports citing findings of more conservative assessments.

सेन्ट्रल माईन प्लानिंग एण्ड डिजाईन इन्स्टीच्यूट लिमिटेड
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क्रमांक : डी-253 — दिनांक : 11/07/25

निविदा संशोधन-03
निविदा सूचना संख्या 04 / 2025-26
NIB Code:- PWD2526A0789

इस कार्यालय के क्रमांक 121 दिनांक 23.05.2025, एवं डी-191 दिनांक 16.06.2025, डी-222 दिनांक 26.06.2025 द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या- 04/2025-26 के क्रम संख्या 01 से 15 पर अंकित कार्यों की तिथियों मे निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

विवरण	पूर्व मे दिनांक	संशोधित दिनांक
ऑनलाइन निविदा आवेदन / डाउनलोड करने की दिनांक	बुधवार, 28 मई 2025 प्रातः 9:30 से सोमवार, 14 जुलाई 2025 सायं 6:00 बजे	बुधवार, 28 मई 2025 प्रातः 9:30 से सोमवार, 4 अगस्त 2025 सायं 6:00 बजे
ऑनलाइन निविदा जमा कराने की दिनांक	बुधवार, 28 मई 2025 प्रातः 9:30 से सोमवार, 14 जुलाई 2025 सायं 6:00 बजे	बुधवार, 28 मई 2025 प्रातः 9:30 से सोमवार, 04 अगस्त 2025 सायं 6:00 बजे
प्रि-बिड मिटींग दिनांक, समय व स्थान	बुधवार, 09 जुलाई 2025, प्रातः 11:00 बजे	गुरूवार, 31 जुलाई 2025, प्रातः 11:00 बजे अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर मु. बाँसवाड़ा में।
ऑनलाइन निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	मंगलवार, 15 जुलाई 2025 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे।	मंगलवार, 05 अगस्त 2025 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे ।

UBN:- PWD2526WLOB02472, WLOB02473, WLOB02474, WLOB02475, WSOB02476, WLOB02477, WSOB02478, WSOB02479, WLOB02480, WSOB02481, WSOB02482, WSOB02484, WSOB02485, WSOB02486, WSOB02487

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

(बी.एल. भेणिया)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर
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ANOTHER DIMENSION

You're involved more mentally when you're the captain: Gill

AP

Shubman Gill is just three matches old as India's Test captain. "Physically, I would say it has been less tiring, but mentally, more tiring. When you are there as a player, sometimes you wait for something to happen, whereas, as a captain, you are thinking most of the time. So, you are involved more mentally," he said.

CONTINGENCY PLAN

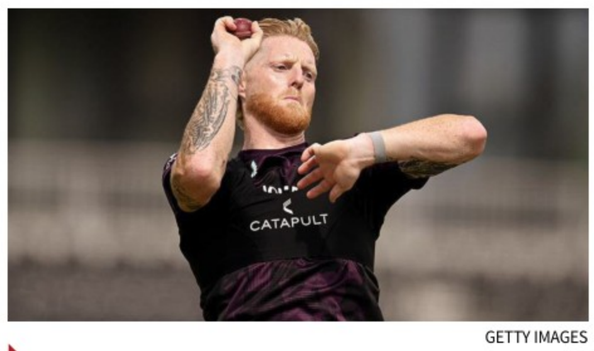
Had prepared for injuries resulting in a different combination: Gill

PTI

It is not ideal [injury concerns in the team] when, after every match, you have a different combination. But it was something that I had prepared before the series that there would be a scenario where I would have to have a different combination for every match — India captain Shubman Gill.

STOKES' TAKE

'Cannot have same over-rate rules in Asia and other continents'



GETTY IMAGES

You can't have the same [over-rate] rules in Asia, where spin is bowling 70% of the overs, to have the same laws in New Zealand, Australia, England, where it's going to be 70% of seam bowled. Common sense would think that you should look at changing how the over-rates are timed in different continents — Ben Stokes.

FIELD DAY

Harmanpreet crosses 4000 runs, slams seventh century in ODIs

GETTY IMAGES

Harmanpreet Kaur, during her knock of 102, became the third Indian woman batter to reach the 4000-run milestone in ODIs. This was her seventh hundred in the 50-over format, and third against England. Harmanpreet pulled level with Mithali Raj's tally of seven ODI centuries. Among Indians, only Smriti Mandhana (11) has more.

Test of character for Gill & Co. as India hopes to bounce back

A toss-up between Kamboj and Prasidh for the third pacer's spot; there is a possibility of Sai Sudharsan replacing Karun at the vital No. 3 slot; England will bank on its fast bowling battery to make the most of the seamer-friendly conditions

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

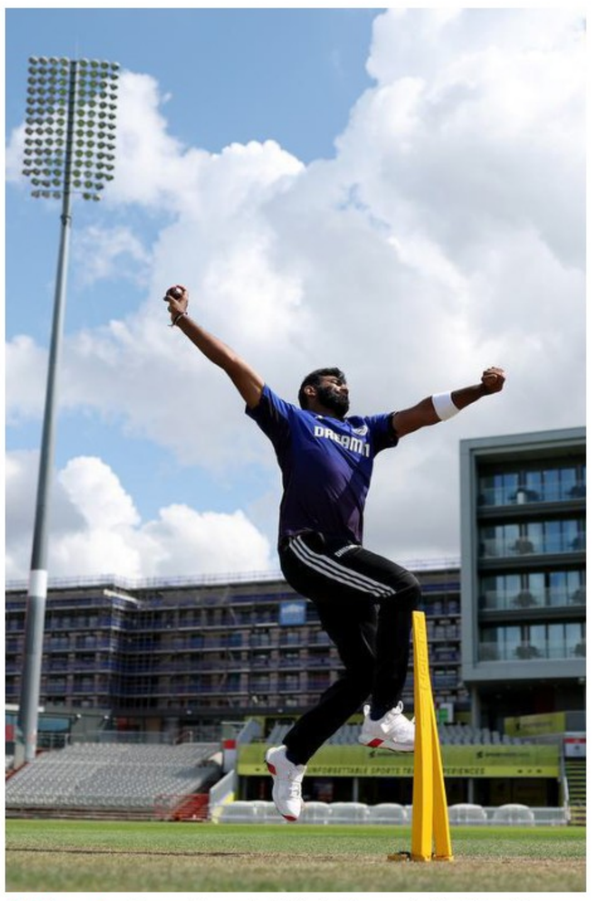
The ground staff had a busy afternoon on Tuesday as they put in the hard yards to get the playing surface in shape. However, with spells of rain and no signs of sunshine, it was a challenge to dry the outfield.

And as India head coach Gautam Gambhir went out to have a close look at the Old Trafford pitch, along with captain Shubman Gill and batting coach Sitanshu Kotak, they visibly seemed concerned over a few damp spots.

Gill had a long conversation with the curator, before walking towards the indoor facility for a light training session.

Even though Gill remained optimistic about his team's chances at the iconic venue, where it has never won a Test match, it will be a challenge for the Indians to adapt to the conditions over the next five days and bounce back in the series.

After a heart-breaking defeat at Lord's, the build-up to the fourth Test has been far from perfect for India. With Arshdeep Singh, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Akash Deep ruled out due to injuries, the team management ensured Jasprit Bumrah remains available for the big game, while also calling up young Haryana seamer Anshul Kamboj.



Cutting edge: Bumrah's availability for the crucial Test is a big boost to India's fortunes. GETTY IMAGES

Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj will lead the fast bowling unit, and the injury to Akash and Arshdeep has opened up space for a potential debut for Kamboj, who picked up all 10 wickets in an innings during a Ranji Trophy fixture against Kerala last year.

Even though Gill admitted that Kamboj is very close to donning the India cap, a decision on whether to play him or bring Prasidh Krishna back will be made on the morning of the game.

India's Old Trafford file

Tests	India	England	Drawn
9	0	4	5

1936	Drawn
1946	Drawn
1952	England won by an innings and 207 runs
1959	England won by 171 runs
1971	Drawn
1974	England won by 113 runs
1982	Drawn
1990	Drawn
2014	England won by an innings and 54 runs

As the pitch is expected to be seam-friendly, it would be interesting to see whether the team management opts for Shardul Thakur over Washington Sundar, while Ravindra Jadeja will be an automatic choice as the lead spinner.

Even though the captain backed Karun Nair, who has had a string of poor scores, there is a possibility of B. Sai Sudharsan replacing him at No. 3.

Barring the collapse in the second innings at Lord's, India's batting has looked steady in the series. Rishabh Pant's availability is welcome news for the tourists.

England, on the other hand, has made just one change to its playing XI, with left-arm spinner Liam Dawson returning to Test cricket after an eight-year gap.

Replacing the injured Shoaib Bashir, Dawson comes on the back of a successful county season with Hampshire. While he could make an impact with the ball, Dawson is also a batter of repute, having amassed more than 10,000 First Class runs.

Enjoying a 2-1 lead in the five-match series, England will bank on its fast bowling battery, comprising Jofra Archer, Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse and captain Ben Stokes, to make the most of the conditions.

Despite forecasts of rain on the first couple of days, both teams will be hoping to put their best foot forward.

The teams:
England (XI): Ben Stokes (Capt.), Jamie Smith (wk), Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Liam Dawson, Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Jofra Archer.
India (from): Shubman Gill (Capt.), Rishabh Pant (wk), Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul, B. Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh, Anshul Kamboj and Kuldeep Yadav.
Match starts at 3.30 p.m. IST.

Game-changers: After Harmanpreet smashed a century, Kranti did the job for India. GETTY IMAGES

Harmanpreet and Kranti star in India's series win

Press Trust of India
CHESTER-LE-STREET

A splendid 84-ball 102 from skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and a superb spell from Kranti Goud (six for 52) were the highlights of India's ODI series win against England here on Tuesday. In a high-scoring third and final match, India amassed 318 for five and dismissed the hosts for 305.

Harmanpreet was at her fluent best as she forged robust partnerships on way to her seventh ODI century, and the third against England. She hammered 14 fours in her knock.

Harmanpreet played some spectacular shots, particularly on the off-side where she hit most of her boundaries.

She also smashed a few down the ground. Harmanpreet also stitched vital stands – 81 for the third wicket with Harleen Deol (45) and 110 off 77 balls with Jemimah. Richa Ghosh provided the finishing touches, her unbeaten 18-ball 38-run cameo with three fours and two sixes, capping an all-round batting show.

Earlier, after India decided to take strike, the foundation was laid by the solid opening stand of 64 between Smriti Mandhana and Pratika Rawal. The former was the aggressor while the latter played second fiddle.

Smriti took the initiative and attacked the bowlers early on. She looked in ominous touch before a false shot led to her exit. The vice-captain stroked five fours until she reached out to a short and wide ball from Sophie Ecclestone in the 18th over and hit it straight to Sophia Dunkley at midwicket. Smriti's 45 came off 54 balls.

Jemimah was in her element as she cracked three consecutive fours off Dean in the 41st over of the innings and two in a row in the spinner's next over. She perished after making a 45-ball 50 which included seven fours.

In reply, England was reduced to eight for two as seamer Kranti sent back the openers. Tammy Beaumont was bowled while Amy Jones fell to a diving catch by Deepti Sharma.

Emma Lamb (68, 81b, 5x4) and skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt (98, 105b, 11x4) revived the innings with a 162-run association for the third wicket before the former was castled by left-arm spinner Sree Charani.

Once Sciver-Brunt was caught by wicketkeeper Richa off Deepti, the chase proved daunting for the hosts. Kranti returned with a bang, adding four wickets in her second spell to finish with sensational figures of 9.5-1-52-6.

This was India's second successive ODI series win in the Old Blighty after the 2022 triumph.

The scores:
India 318/5 in 50 overs (Smriti Mandhana 45, Harleen Deol 45, Harmanpreet Kaur 102, Jemimah Rodrigues 50, Richa Ghosh 38 n.o.) bt England 305 in 49.5 overs (Emma Lamb 68, Nat Sciver-Brunt 98, Sophia Dunkley 34, Alice Davidson-Richards 44, Kranti Goud 6/52). **Toss:** India.
India won by 13 runs to clinch series 2-1.

England didn't play in the spirit of the game: Gill

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

India captain Shubman Gill accused England of not playing in the "spirit of the game" after the home team openers Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley walked out late on the third evening of the third Test at Lord's.

According to Gill, with just seven minutes remaining before stumps were drawn, the England openers were 90 seconds late. As a result, India could only bowl one over and tensions flared between the two teams.

"The English batsmen on that day had seven minutes of play left. They were 90 seconds late to come to the crease. Not 10, not 20, but 90 seconds late. Yes, most of the teams use this (tactics). If we were in the same position, we would have also liked to play lesser overs, but there is a manner to do it," Gill said on the eve of the fourth Test.

Not on: Gill was not pleased with the tactics adopted by Crawley, *in pic,* and Duckett on the third evening of the Lord's Test. GETTY IMAGES

"We felt, yes, if you get hit on your body, the physios are allowed to come on. That is something that is fair. But to come 90 seconds late to the crease is not something that is in the spirit of the game. And just leading up to that event, a lot of things that we thought should not have happened, had happened," Gill said.

As Crawley slowed things down, Gill got into an animated conversation."It was not something that I am very proud of. But there was a build-up to that. We had no intention of doing that whatsoever. But you are playing a game, you are playing to win and there are a lot of emotions involved. And when you see things that should not happen happening, sometimes the emotions come out of nowhere," Gill added.

On Monday, Harry Brook had said that one needn't always be the "nice guys".

SNAPSHOTS

Indian colts suffer batting collapse

CHELMSFORD: Vihaan Malhotra made a fluent hundred, but the India u-19 batters caved in against left-arm spinner Ralphie Albert as England gained upper hand on the penultimate day of the second Youth Test on Tuesday. Vihaan (120, 123b, 19x4, 3x6) and skipper Ayush Mhatre (80, 90b, 14x4, 1x6) took India to 170 for one before being bowled out for 279 to concede a first-innings lead of 30 runs. England was 93 for no loss in its second innings for an overall lead of 123 at close on the third day.

The scores: England u-19 309 & 93/0 in 25 overs (Dawkins 42 batting, Thomas 50 batting) vs India u-19 279 in 58.1 overs (Mhatre 80, Vihaan 120, Albert 6/53).

Bowlers, Seifert power NZ past SA

HARARE: New Zealand's bowlers set up a comfortable seven-wicket win against South Africa in its Zimbabwe T20I tri-series match at Harare Sports Club on Tuesday.

South Africa was restricted to 134 for eight in 20 overs after being sent in.
Tim Seifert hit 66 not out as the Black Caps cruised to victory with 25 balls to spare.
New Zealand maintained its unbeaten record in the tournament and will meet the same opponent in the final at the same venue on Saturday.

The scores: South Africa 134/8 in 20 overs (Hendricks 41; Milne 2/21, Santner 2/26, Duffy 2/33) lost to New Zealand 135/3 in 15.5 overs (Seifert 66 n.o.). **Toss:** New Zealand. **PoM**: Tim Seifert.

Bangladesh pips Pakistan, seals series

MIRPUR: Bangladesh survived a late onslaught by Faheem Ashraf and Ahmed Daniyal to pull off a narrow eight-run victory in the second T20I at the Shere Bangla National Stadium on Tuesday, winning a first-ever series in the format against Pakistan.

The scores: Bangladesh 133 in 20 overs (Jaker Ali 55, Mahedi Hasan 33) bt Pakistan 125 in 19.2 overs (Faheem Ashraf 51, Shoriful Islam 3/17).
Toss: Pakistan; **PoM:** Jaker Ali.

Humpy and Divya register draws with black pieces

CHESS

Press Trust of India
BATUMI

Grandmaster Koneru Humpy held China's Tingjie Lei to a comfortable draw with black pieces, while Divya Deshmukh's solid defence frustrated former women's world champion Zhongyi Tan in the first game of the FIDE Women's World Cup semifinals here on Tuesday.

From the look of it, the two Indians have had a great beginning drawing with black and in the return game, both will play with white pieces. If the results remain tied in this $691,250 event, the games of shorter duration will be played to determine the winner.

Also, three spots are up for grabs for the next Women's Candidates Tournament – ensuring at least one Indian will qualify.

Humpy and Divya had a good start to their semifinals. FILE PHOTO

The results (Semifinal): Game 1: Tingjie Lei drew with Koneru Humpy; Zhongyi Tan drew with Divya Deshmukh.

INBRIEF

Paret-Peintre wins Tour stage 16, Pogacar stays in yellow

Valentin Paret-Peintre bagged a first home win on an enthralling stage 16 of the Tour de France on Tuesday pipping Ireland's Ben Healy atop the 1910m altitude Mont Ventoux finish line. Jonas Vingegaard attacked Tadej Pogacar but the defending champion tracked the Dane all the way up the 15km ascent to extend his lead by two seconds.

van der Poel withdraws from Tour de France

Mathieu van der Poel withdrew from the Tour de France ahead of Tuesday's stage up to the Mont Ventoux as he suffers from pneumonia, his team said. The Dutchman, who wore the yellow jersey and won a stage during the opening week of the race, experienced "symptoms of a common cold over the past few days", his Alpecin-Deceuninck team said a few hours before Stage 16.

Sumit Nagal beats top seed Jay Clarke in the first round

Alternate entrant Sumit Nagal beat top seed Jay Clarke of Britain 7-6(4), 6-1 in the first round of the €91,250 Challenger tennis tournament at Tampere (Finland). In the €596,035 ATP event on clay in Kitzbuhel (Austria), Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Bollipalli progressed into the quarterfinals without playing a match. The first-round opponents of the Indian pair, top seeds Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz of Germany, withdrew with an injury.

The results: €91,250 Challenger, Tampere: First round: Sumit Nagal bt Jay Clarke (GBR) 7-6(4), 6-1.
€91,250 Challenger, Segovia (Spain): Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Clement Chidekh (Fra) & Roy Stepanov (Isr) bt Robin Bertrand (Fra) & Adil Kalyanpur 6-4, 6-3.
$30,000 ITF women, Monastir (Tunisia): First round: Vaidehee Chaudhari bt Julia Adams (USA) 6-4, 6-2.

Calista Girl takes the honours in main event

HYDERABAD: Trainer N Ravinder Singh's mare Calista Girl, ridden by Gaurav Singh, won the K. Srinivas Reddy Memorial Cup, the main event of Tuesday's (July 22) races. The winner is owned by Kunwar Digvijay Singh Shekhawat, M/s. N. Shyam Sunder & Sreeramulu Bommishetty.

1. ROYSTON ROCK PLATE (1,400M): ARABESKA (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Pride Aside (B. Nikhil) 2, Honey Luna (P. Sai K) 3 and Divine Faith (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 3-3/4, 4-3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 28.86s. ₹12 (w), 11, 15 and 13 (p). SHP: 24, THP: 33, SHW: 10 and 21, FP: 35, Q: 32, Tanala: 109. Favourite: Arabeska. Owners: M/s. Ram H. Shroff & Raj Shroff rep. Stride Livestock Pvt. Ltd., D.R. Thacker, S.R. Sanas & Chetan Shah. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

2. MALAKPET PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): SHADOW BABY (Md. Ismail) 1, Shooting Star (B.R. Kumar) 2, Rolls Royce (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Golden Unicorn (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. Not run: Smart Boy. 2, 2 and 12-3/4, 1m, 15.27s. ₹132 (w), 19, 13 and 10 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 46, SHW: 17 and 15, FP: 504, Q: 103, Tanala: 1,069. Favourite: Shooting Star. Owners: Mr. Shankar Srinivas & Mrs. Smita Bajoria. Trainer: A. Imran Khan.

3. FIRECREST PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400M): DETECTIVE (Gaurav Singh) 1, Sugar (B.R. Kumar) 2, Star Forever (Ajay K) 3 and Emperors Charm (P. Sai K) 4. 2, 1/2 and 6-3/4. 1m, 28.41s. ₹53 (w), 17, 16 and 25 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 69, SHW: 18 and 33, FP: 258, Q: 175, Tanala: 3,416. Favourite: Linda. Owners: Mr. Cyrus F. Palia, Mrs. Freny C. Palia & Kunwar Digvijay Singh Shekhawat. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

4. GODAVARI CUP (1,400M): PETALUMA (Vivek G) 1, Ayushman (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Racing Ruler (P. Sai K) 3 and Mystical Dawn (Ashad Asbar) 4. 1, 8 and 3-1/2. 1m, 28.09s. ₹21 (w), 10, 14 and 17 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 40, SHW: 18 and 18, FP. 68, Q: 37, Tanala: 311. Favourite: Petaluma. Owners: M/s. M. Ramakrishna Reddy, Bharat Venkat Epur & Mrs. Rajini Meka. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

5. FIRECREST PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400M): GET LUCKY (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, N R I Ultrapower (Varun) 2, Only My Way (Afroz K) 3 and China Town (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 1/2, 3-3/4 and 2. 1m, 28.09s. ₹18 (w), 14, 12 and 56 (p). SHP: 51, THP: 89, SHW: 26 and 34, FP: 70, Q: 66, Tanala: 1,789. Favourite: Get Lucky. Owners: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

6. K. SRINIVAS REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,100M): CALISTAL GIRL (Gaurav Singh) 1, Pontefract (Shivansh) 2, Shadow Fax (Mukesh K) 3 and Warwick (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 3, 2 and Head. 1m, 7.57s. ₹66 (w), 20, 75 and 29 (p). SHP: 246, THP: 65, SHW: 40 and 42, FP: 2,148, Q: 1,237, Tanala: 21, 205. Favourite: She Can. Owners: Kunwar Digvijay Singh, M/s. N. Shyam Sunder & Sreeramulu Bommishetty. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

NOTE: *Amyra dislodged his rider Likith Appu near the 900m and who escaped unhurt.*

7. MALAKPET PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): VITAL SIGN (B.R. Kumar) 1, Star Medal (Abhay Singh) 2, Exclusive Luck (Gaurav) 3 and Dino (Santosh Raj) 4. 4-3/4, 3-1/4 and 1. 1m, 15.46s. ₹28 (w), 11, 14 and 53 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 104, SHW: 32 and 14, FP: 206, Q: 108, Tanala: 2, 346. Favourite: Petra Act. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

8. FAIRWAY PLATE (1,100M): BIEN PENSANT (Surya Prakash) 1, Genie (Md. Ekram Alam) 2, Fortune Art (Santosh Raj) 3 and Natu Natu (G. Naresh) 4. 3-3/4, 1-1/4 and 2-1/2. 1m, 9.97s. ₹121 (w), 49, 10 and 26 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 86, SHW: 42 and 17, FP: 1,236, Q: 553, Tanala: 19, 447. Favourite: Natu Natu. Owner: Mr. Prabhaker Reddy Solipuram. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹26,325 (15 tkts.) & 30%: 496 (341 tkts.). Mini Jackpot: (i) 4,617 (14 tkts.), (ii) 8,567 (8 tkts.). Treble: (i) 847 (44 tkts.), (ii) 269 (131 tkts.), (iii) 8,891 (5 tkts.).

LIVE TELECAST

England vs India: 4th Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 p.m.

Prannoy prevails over Watanabe

The World No. 35 saves five match points; Lakshya and Anupama exit in the first round; Indian doubles pairs also come a cropper

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
CHANGZHOU

Indian shuttler H.S. Prannoy saved five match points and clawed his way back from a game down to beat Japan's Koki Watanabe in the opening round of the China Open Super 1000 badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

World No. 35 Prannoy pulled off a stunning 8-21, 21-16, 23-21 win against the 18th-ranked Watanabe.

It was a tough day for Lakshya Sen, as he squandered a one-game advantage to suffer a 21-14, 22-24, 11-21 loss to China's fifth seed Li Shi Feng.

"This point in my career, every win matters. I'm happy to be back on tour, small breaks happened here and there. The level of playing has gone really high and winning each round is getting tough day by day," Prannoy said after the win.

It was a disappointing outing for Anupama Upadhyay in women's singles, as she exited in the opening round following a 23-21, 11-21, 10-21 loss to Taiwan's Lin Hsiang Ti. All the Indian doubles pairs in action crashed out in opening round.

Remarkable comeback: Prannoy pulled off a heist in his first round match. FILE PHOTO

The results (first round): Men: H.S. Prannoy bt Koki Watanabe (Jpn) 8-21, 21-16, 23-21; Li Shi Feng (Chn) bt Lakhsya Sen 14-21, 24-22, 21-11.
Women: Lin Hsiang Ti (Tpe) bt Anupama Upadhyay 21-23, 21-11, 21-10.
Doubles: Pei Shan Hsieh & En-Tzu Hung (Tpe) bt Amruta Pramuthesh & Sonali Singh 21-12, 21-5; Lauren Lam & Allison Lee (USA) bt Kavipriya Selvam & Simran Singhi 21-16, 21-14.
Mixed doubles: Rehan Naufal Kusharjanto & Gloria Emanuelle Widjaja (Ina) bt Ashith Surya & Amrutha Pramuthesh 21-12, 21-17; Tien Ci Wong & Chiew Sien Lim (Mas) bt Rohan Kapoor & Ruthvika Shivani Gadde 25-27, 21-16, 21-14.

SNAPSHOTS

Parneet tops compound women's rankings at WUG
World Championships team gold medal-winning archer Parneet Kaur topped the compound women's individual rankings in the qualification round at the World University Games in Essen, Germany, on Tuesday.
Parneet, who scored 701 points, was one of the two archers to score more than 700. Madhura Dhamangaonkar was sixth with 687 points, while Avneet Kaur was 22nd with 673. In the recurve men's division, Aryan Rana collected 640 points to be at 29th spot. Vishnu Chaudhary (627) and Mrinal Chauhan (622) managed 42nd and 47th places respectively.

Zheng withdraws from U.S. Open
Olympic gold medallist Zheng Qinwen withdrew from the U.S. Open on Monday, two days after announcing she had arthroscopic surgery on her right elbow because of "persistent pain". Sixth-ranked Zheng was coming off a first-round loss at Wimbledon last month. "Over the past months, I've been dealing with persistent pain in my right elbow," the 22-year-old from China said on Saturday. She was replaced by Leolia Jeanjean.

Paras enters World 6-Red Snooker pre-quarters
National champion Paras Gupta outplayed Mohamed Shehab of UAE 4-0 to storm into the pre-quarterfinals of the IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championships in Manama on Tuesday. Earlier, Aditya Mehta outclassed double world champion Muhammad Asif of Pakistan 4-0 to top Group N. By virtue of being ranked No. 2 in the reseeding, Mehta got a bye directly into the pre-quarters. In the u-21 category, India's Mayur Garg and Mayank Karthik maintained their winning streak by making the pre-quarterfinals.
The results (Indians unless specified): Round-of-32: Paras Gupta bt Mohamed Shehab (UAE) 4-0. **League: Group L:** Manan Chandra bt Sebastian Milewski (Pol) 4-2. **Group M:** Pankaj Advani bt Mohammed Al Joaker (UAE) 4-1. **Group N:** Aditya Mehta bt Muhammad Asif (Pak) 4-0.

Alcaraz withdraws from Canadian Open
World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz, a five-time Grand Slam singles champion, has withdrawn from next week's ATP Canadian Open in Toronto to recover from Wimbledon, organisers said on Monday.

Karun to return to Karnataka for the upcoming domestic season

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Batter Karun Nair is set to return to his home state of Karnataka for the upcoming domestic season, having obtained a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA).

Karun, who is currently with the Indian Test team in England, spent two fruitful seasons with Vidarbha. The 33-year-old made runs aplenty in Vidarbha's Ranji Trophy title run earlier this year. Karun also led Vidarbha to the Vijay Hazare Trophy final. His fine form earned him a Test cap after a gap of eight years.

Karun will add experience to a young Karnataka batting line-up, which includes the likes of Devdutt Padikkal, R. Smaran and K.V. Aneesh. Karnataka suffered a disappointing 2024-25 Ranji Trophy campaign, failing to make it to the knockout stages.

Karun made his senior debut with Karnataka in 2012 (in a List A game), and last featured in a First Class match for Karnataka in 2022.

Clear path: Karun obtained an NOC from the Vidarbha Cricket Association. FILE PHOTO: NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Sports Governance Bill to be tabled in the Parliament today

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

In an attempt to empower Indian sports, and to drive it towards a sparkling presence in the global arena, the Union Government has carefully drafted the Sports Governance Bill, relinquishing its previously perceived status as a "controller" and accepting the role of a "facilitator".

The Bill, scheduled to be tabled in the Parliament on Wednesday, will try to lighten the load on the beleaguered judiciary by having a Sports Tribunal, headed by a Supreme Court judge, for speedy redressal of disputes.

Legal tussles
Many National Sports Federations are caught in legal tussles that have been dragging for years, harming the growth of the sport. The Union Sports Ministry itself is supposed to be dealing with more than 300 legal cases.

After the judgment of the Sports Tribunal, as and when it is established, the matter can only be taken up with the Supreme Court.

Even though the Bill will be athlete-centric, ensuring the presence of athletes in administration, it will encourage competent administrators, allowing the National Sports Federations to align with the International Federations and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in terms of age and tenure norms.

Fair election
Overall, the autonomy of the National Sports Federations would be fully respected, while ensuring the execution of fair election, selection, etc.

It is a holistic approach by the Government, which has consulted all the stakeholders and has arrived at a system to rid Indian sports of its many problems and help it grow stronger in the international arena, matching its vast potential for excellence.

Every sport will come under the Sports Governance Bill without exception, even though the Government is focused on the Olympic medals apart from hosting the Olympics itself.

EBFC to face South United FC

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

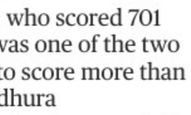
Emami East Bengal will take on debutant South United FC in the lung opener of the 134th edition of the Durand Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium on Wednesday. The organisers of the Asia's oldest football tournament have arranged a grand opening ceremony which will be attended by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The tournament has been limited by the absence of the majority of the teams from the Indian Super League, who have apparently pulled out owing to the uncertainty surrounding the start of the country's top league this season. However, six ISL sides, including the three from Kolkata – Mohun Bagan Super Giant, Mohammedan Sporting SC apart from East Bengal – have confirmed their participation in the 24-team tournament. The three other ISL teams in the fray are North-East United FC, Jamshedpur FC and Punjab FC.

The rest of the field is filled up by teams from I-League and I-League 2 in addition to Services and Paramilitary forces. Tribhuvan Army FC of Nepal and a combined side of the Malaysian Armed Forces are the two foreign entries completing the league stage, which will see the 24 teams divided into six groups.

The league matches will be played in five cities – Kolkata (two groups), Jamshedpur, Shillong, Kokrajhar and Imphal – from where eight teams (six group winners and two best runners-up) will qualify for the quarterfinals.

The ICC: A members' club with a very small number of members



BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Writing in the *Wisden*, Gideon Haigh characterised the International Cricket Council (ICC) as "an unloved beast that is ostensibly a global governing body but too often looks like a forum in which the representatives of national monopolies come to split the spoils of cricket's commercial exploitation."

In one of his more mellow moods, an ICC official once said that "if we sold the television rights to ICC board meetings, we would make a fortune..." Another thought meetings of the ICC Executive Board are almost pointless, since "Everything has been decided by the time they take place, on the basis who owes a favour to whom."

How did cricket get to where it is today? The glib answer is, the greatness of its players, from W.G. Grace to Virat Kohli, guided by a benevolent international governing body which has had only the game's interests at heart. If only. But while there are numerous biographies of Grace and Kohli, we haven't had someone getting into the nitty gritty of how the ICC ran the sport.

Until now that is, when an Australian, Rod Lyall has, after deep research into primary sources published *The Club: Empire, Power and the Governance of World Cricket*. This is what the ICC has always been, "a members' club, with a very small number of members", says the author. Today it is seen as merely an events management company, the real power being in the hands of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

Changing times
From colonial power to money power, from exclusivity to inclusion, from being a Commonwealth preserve to welcoming the wider world, from being seen as the MCC's Foreign Desk to an extension of the ruling BJP, and the possible take-over of the game by corporates, the journey of the ICC has been unique. No single country has the kind of clout India has in cricket in any other sport. Brazil might be football to many, but they don't rule it.

The skewed position was built into the ICC from the start. As Lyall writes, the central objective (of the ICC) had been to "concentrate power in a small number of hands, and to protect the interests of that small group at the expense of anyone else....the administrators had been consistent in their exploitation of race and class to maintain their grasp on power."

The eagerness with which the ICC is wooing the United States is ironical considering they were kept out for not being in the Commonwealth. "The US might have been invited to join in 1909 but had been kept out by that unfortunate War of Independence back in the 1770s," comments Lyall drily.

The ICC has been chary about dealing with the big issues: corruption, politics, on-field changes, but has defended its turf keenly. By the 1930s, when the original three members had expanded to six with the inclusion of New Zealand, West Indies and India, it proposed that the founding members would have two votes and the newcomers just one each. It was only in 1947 that a First-Class match was defined. ICC meetings were "the usual mixture of platitudes and procrastinations."

India's attempts to shake the grip on the game and its administration from England and Australia began with the shifting of the World Cup to the subcontinent in 1986-87 after the first three had been held in England.

A few years later, the founding members lost the power of veto, and Jagmohan Dalmiya, speeded up the eastward shift.

When the ICC shifted its headquarters from London to Dubai, one newspaper headline said simply, 'ICC Moves Closer to Money'. Dalmiya's membership drive not only gave India greater influence thanks to the votes the new countries had, it also hastened the acceptance of cricket into the Olympic fold.

India's argument has been, since the time of N. Srinivasan, that when England and Australia were calling the shots, no one else had a say in matters but now it was India's turn. Srinivasan became the ICC's first chairman in 2014, and set about establishing India's suzerainty in the sport.

Is the ICC a necessary evil or an unnecessary do-gooder or a mix of the two depending on the situation? *The Club* gives us the background to decide for ourselves.

Former Liverpool defender Joey Jones passes away

Agence France Presse
LONDON

Former Liverpool and Wales defender Joey Jones, a key member of two European Cup-winning teams, passed away aged 70, the club said on Tuesday. Jones made 100 appearances for Liverpool in three highly successful years between 1975 and 1978, also winning a UEFA Cup and a league title. He also earned 72 caps for Wales.